

DIRECT ACTION

WEB
FEATURE

A special feature from DirectAction.org

from the DA Archives

GroundWork 04: Nuclear Waste - Part II

GroundWork was a successor to Direct Action newspaper – for which the novel *Direct Action* was named. In 1989, several former DA collective members joined a San Francisco-based collective publishing Green Letter magazine, loosely affiliated with the pre-Green Party grassroots Greens' movement.

In 1992, as the Greens morphed into an electoral party, we renamed the magazine GroundWork and became an independent grassroots voice. Circulation peaked at 8000 copies, with subscribers in almost every US state and Canadian province as well as across Europe.

Each issue offered general grassroots reporting as well as in-depth coverage of a particular theme. The issues on Nuclear Waste were the most comprehensive report available on this secretive and ever-shifting topic in the 1990s.

- GroundWork Issue 1 (1992) - 500 Years of Resistance
- GroundWork Issue 2 (1992) - Health and Organizing
- GroundWork Issue 3 (1993) - Nuclear Waste - Part I
- GroundWork Issue 4 (1994) - Nuclear Waste - Part II
- GroundWork Issue 5 (1995) - Grassroots Dialog
- GroundWork Issue 6 (1996) - Defending Our Forests
- GroundWork Issue 7 (1998) - Grassroots Overview

Download all seven issues at: DirectAction.org/groundwork/

Photo: 2011 Foreclose the Banks protest in downtown San Francisco, by Luke Hauser.



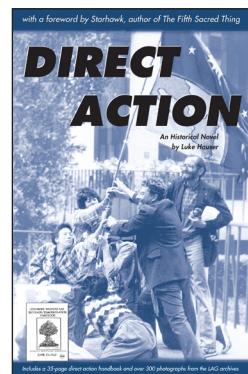
DIRECT ACTION

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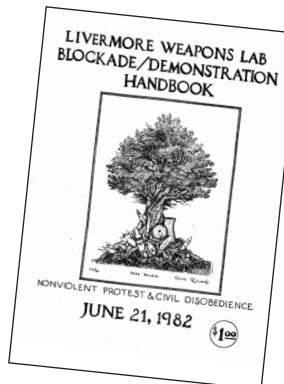


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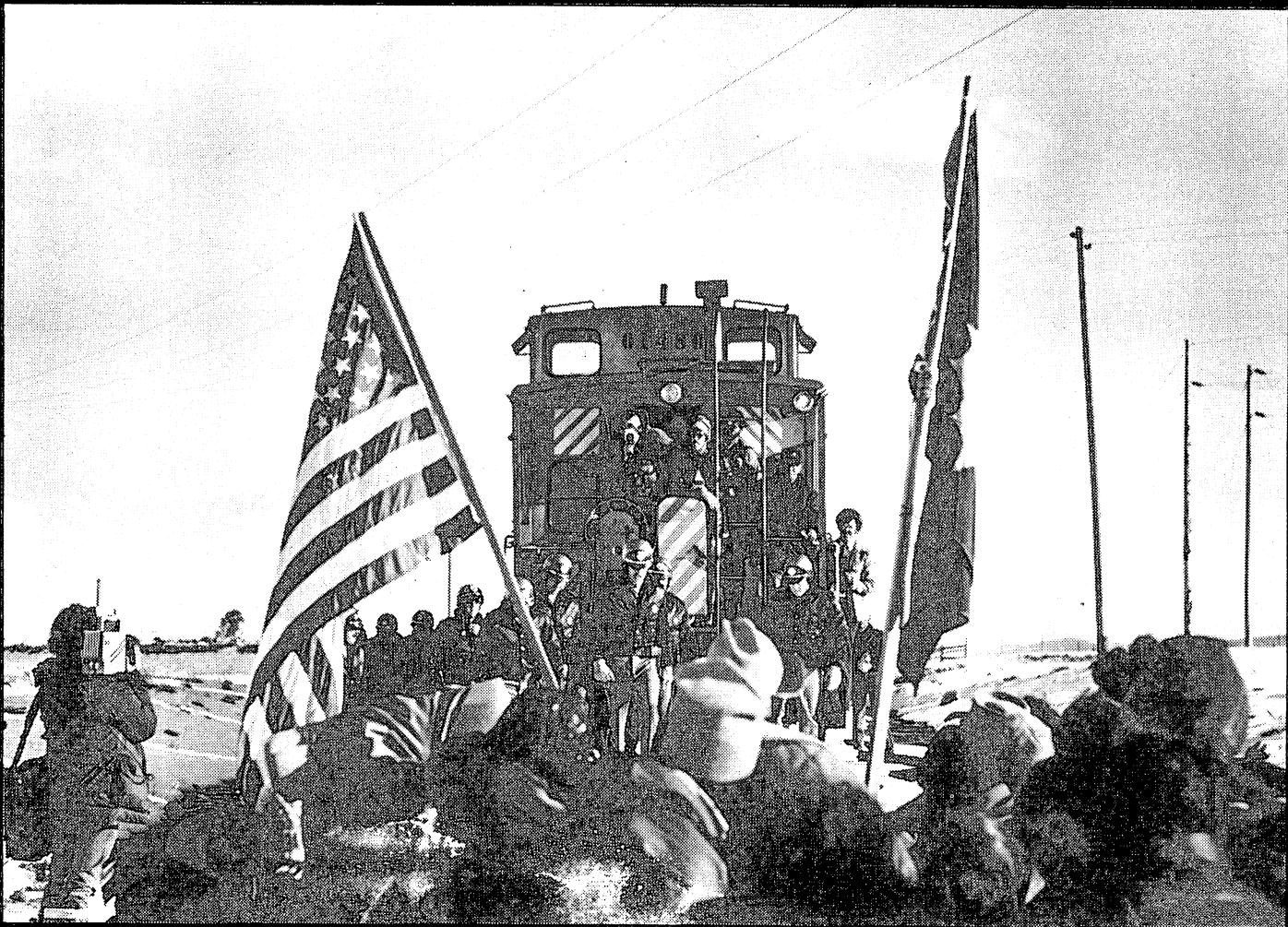
Photos and news — direct from the grassroots

\$3

GroundWork

Issue #4

The U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex: A Legacy of Poison



Years of protest at Rocky Flats helped shut that nuclear facility down. But what's next for the contaminated site?

Plus:

- Food Not Bombs
- Green news
- Native Americans fight mining

- Water struggles in Mexico
- Sea Turtle campaign
- ACT UP funeral marches
- War Tax resistance

Ground Floor

Ground Work

GroundWork is a photo-newsmagazine covering community organizing, direct action, and other grassroots work. GroundWork was formerly called "Green Letter." Our fiscal sponsor is the Tides Foundation, San Francisco. GroundWork is indexed in the Environmental Periodicals Bibliography.

GroundWork #4 was published in early March 1994. Our next issue is scheduled for fall 1994, depending on finances. Please send articles, photos, announcements etc as soon as possible — see opposite page for details.

Photos and texts c. 1994. Reprints by nonprofits okay, but please credit author and GW (and print our address!), and do not edit without author's consent. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of GroundWork.

Cover photo c. 1978 by Robert Godfrey, Boulder

The GroundWork Collective: Casey Adair, Margo Adair, George Franklin, Kristy Lee, Steve Nadel, Tori Woodard — & special help from Howard Brotine & Robin Kosseff

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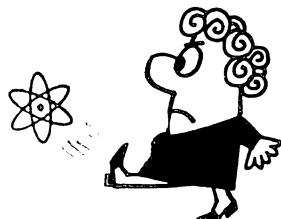
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The U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex: A Legacy of Poison

— coordinated by Tori Woodard —

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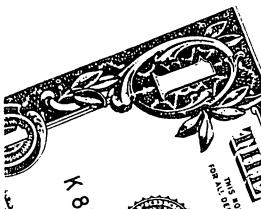
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GroundWork Counts on Your Support!
See back inside cover

Submitting Articles, Graphics & Photos to GroundWork

GroundWork welcomes reports from readers. You are our connection to the grassroots in your area. We are particularly interested in accounts of events and actions, and appreciate analytical articles which are tied to specific organizing. We will consider press releases or original accounts of events.

Groups — Put us on your mailing list. We look through the dozens of publications we receive, to get ideas for stories. Also, consider getting bulk bundles of GroundWork to resell as a fundraiser for your group — see back inside cover.

Photographers: Photos are essential to our vision of GroundWork. We want photos of events, actions, art projects, community organizing and service, and alternative culture. We can return photos after using them, and will consider paying for processing, printing and mailing — please contact us first, at (415) 255-7623.

Artists: We appreciate receiving graphic work. Please do not send original artwork. High-quality xeroxes or stats are great; or have your work scanned into a Mac format that can be read by Aldus Pagemaker.

Readers: Keep us in touch with your area. Show GroundWork to people you know. Ask groups to send us their newsletters. And when you are involved in a project, send us a photo and story!

If you can distribute sample copies at a conference, or to groups and bookstores in your area, let us know — call (415) 255-7623 or see back inside cover.

And please — Support us financially! We depend on your donations to publish GroundWork.

graphic from
Santa Cruz
Monthly



To Our Readers.....

We were looking though our mail the week before we finished this issue, and came across the first issue of a new "alternative journal of the Ozark bioregion" called Kadohadacho.* Published in Mountain View, Arkansas, the eight-page tabloid carries news on a new women's shelter, local AIDS services, alternative education, co-ops, and more.

It took us back a ways. GroundWork began eight years ago as a small tabloid called Green Letter, gradually growing to a 60-page magazine. In 1992 we changed our name to GroundWork to reflect what we saw as the task facing a national grassroots publication. With the work of dozens of writers, photographers, and production people, as well as the generous support of our readers, we have completed our fourth issue under the name GroundWork.

The theme of this issue provides an up-to-the-minute, "inside" look at the rapidly-changing U.S. nuclear weapons complex, and — following up on our last issue — the radioactive waste it has generated. The end of the Cold War put the conversion and cleanup of nuclear weapons production sites on the national agenda. GroundWork describes government plans and activists' struggles to re-

* Kadohadacho, PO Box 946, Mountain View, Arkansas 72560.

direct those plans toward a greener future.

As we worked on this issue, the horror stories of U.S. government nuclear experimentation on its own population, were finally breaking into the mainstream media. By the time we finished production, the stories had virtually disappeared. Again, the mainstream media refuses to give any sustained attention to these issues. The huge cost of nuclear clean-up began to break into the mainstream several years ago, to be back-paged by the Savings & Loan scandals. Only determined activism can keep the human and financial costs of recovering from the nuclear age on the national agenda.

On more positive notes, we are very happy to publish Rosa Alegrfa's first-hand account of a Mexican village's struggles over water rights, illuminating a situation that has fueled the anger of indigenous people of Mexico. And our overflowing National News section features a story from Lyle Point, Washington about an encampment trying to preserve an age-old Native American fishing site. We particularly appreciate receiving articles such as these which come to us unsolicited from readers. We try to keep up with the grassroots, but inevitably some stories slip by. We count on you to be our eyes and ears in your region. Send us a story and photos, and we'll try to get the word out.

Which brings us back to Kadohadacho, which was also sent to us by readers.

What especially touched us was the enclosed note offering to help distribute GroundWork in the Ozarks bioregion. It's a generous offer, and one we gladly accept.

So in addition to our own mailing list and bulk orders, we'll be sending out copies of the magazine to activists in the Ozarks bioregion. Just like we'll be sending them to Vermont, Oregon, eastern Oklahoma, and a couple of dozen other places where readers have helped by loaning us mailing lists or offering to distribute bulk copies to specific networks.

Are you part of a group or network that would like to see GroundWork? Finances permitting, we will consider mailing a copy to your members. It's a boost to our work, and puts your network in touch with grassroots organizing nationwide.

This issue was made possible by your subscriptions and bulk orders; by members of the Greens and former readers of Atoms & Waste who responded to our fall appeal; and, like last issue, by a generous donation from a war tax resister, who redirected taxes from the government and military to help fund this magazine. Our total budget for this issue — printing, distribution and overhead — was about \$7000. To the military, that's a few spare nuts and bolts. To us, it's enough for our semi-annual attempt to change the world.

Many thanks to all of you. We hope to return with GroundWork #5 in the fall.

James Boggs: May 28, 1919 - July 22, 1993

James Boggs, longtime Detroit activist whose work was an inspiration to GroundWork, Detroit Summer, and many other grassroots projects, died last summer in his Detroit home at age 74.

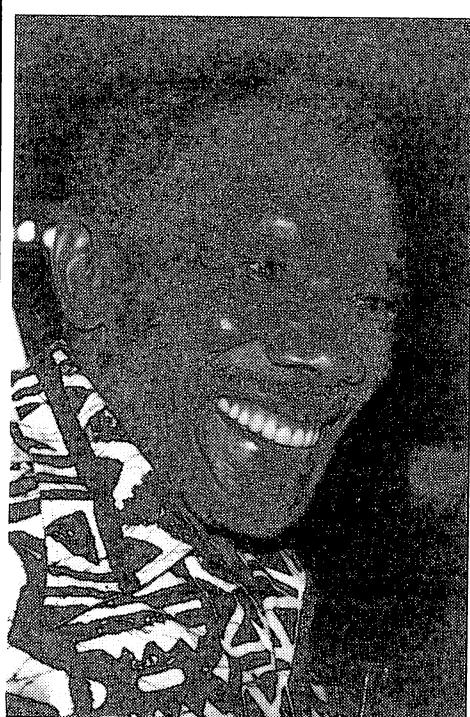
James Boggs was the author of several books, notably "The American Revolution," published in 1963. In the late 1980s, he worked with the Detroit group Save Our Sons and Daughters. Reflecting on this work, he wrote:

"As we approach the 21st century, the United States is no longer the greatest country in the world either in terms of production or social relations. We are Number One only when it comes to violence and killing one another over material things.

"For the first time in the history of this country, we are faced simultaneously with the two most basic and challenging questions of life: How do we make a living? and How do we live in harmony with one another and with Mother Nature?

"The world is not out there just waiting for us with jobs and a bright future. It is waiting for us to design and create different ways to make our livings and to live together.

"When we challenge our young people to get involved in creating and designing these new and different ways to make our living and to live together, I believe we will see a decline in the level of violence in our communities and among our young people."



The Clinton Divide

by George Shrub
Committee to Intervene Anywhere

When the President gave his recent joint address to Congress, I noticed he didn't inhale. More power to him. During the election he lost a good part of the hippie vote when he said he didn't inhale, but when he said that after not inhaling he didn't enjoy it, I think he lost a good part of the Mensa vote as well.

The reaction of the leftist-overs to the ascension to power of the Democratic Ultra-left has by now divided into two tendencies. One group, exhausted by a twelve-year battle against the Forces of Right, is ecstatic over the ozone-coddling, baby-killing, metrically correct forces now hugging and high-fiving their way up and down the corridors of power. These are the *Clintonistas*.

These *Clintonistas* have declared the elections to be a mandate for women. Well, that's better than a mandate for men, like in the military. But what's all this about family leave? How can you have family values if the family leaves? On the other hand, if you destroy some families, I suppose the remaining ones are worth more. That's supply-side family values as I understand them.

On the other side of the Clinton Divide you have the people who feel that just because a politician has been elected, for some reason he's not likely to overthrow the government. These cynics like to point out that Mr. Clinton's group, the Democratic Leadership Council, was backed financially by Georgia Pacific, the Tobacco Institute, the Petroleum Institute, Arco and Dow. In other words, you may have rolled over and voted for Clinton but my boys backed him with a big roll. You may be Greens, but we've got the green stuff. You may be friends of Bill, but I paid the Bill.

It's often hard to tell which is the real Bill because he has a tendency to be all things to all people. I'll be only too happy to help him select. Hey, I'm people too. More or less. I may not wear my pants backwards, but I'm still wearing the pants in this country, Hillary notwithstanding. And we're going to continue pantsin' the world because, since the demise of the Soviets, we are the world's only Superpants.

Somalia

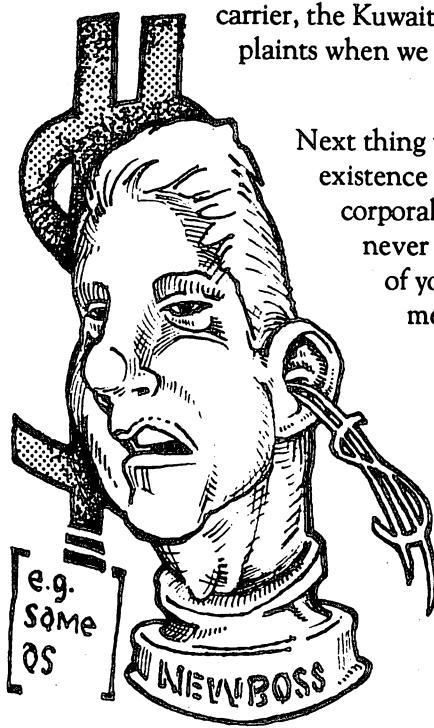
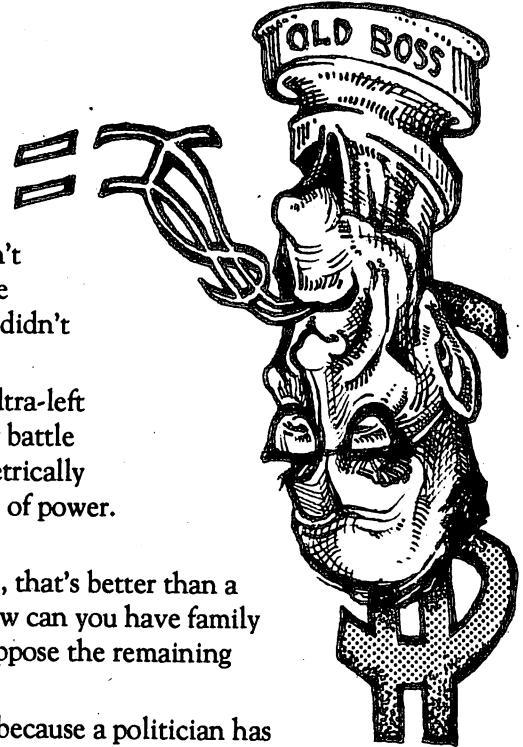
With Operation Restore Hype, we are helping the world to realize that we're actually good guys in disguise. We have every right to go in there and disarm those gangs — after all, we armed them. We're going to get in and get out, just like gays in the military. We don't need a base there. We already have a land-based aircraft carrier, the Kuwait. Having established ourselves as military-civilian humanitarians, we'll hear no complaints when we save Cuba. There will be complaints, but we won't hear them.

Gays in the Military

Next thing you know there'll be gays in the FBI, wearing dresses! Betting on horses! Denying the existence of the mafia! There'll be gay privates showing themselves, showing their privates to corporals, S&M corporal punishment, gay majors, gay drum majors. Clinton doesn't get it. He's never been in the military. He doesn't know what it's like to be showering down and have one of your buddies come up and pat you on the back, softly! Oh yes, we'll have sexual harassment in the military. Sailors will go out and hook the wrong tail.

As Chaperone-General Bob Dole pointed out, if gays are allowed in, meaning in and out, there could be loss of life in the military. That's not what the military's for — it's for the loss of *other* people's life. Friendly fire's one thing, but gay fire, whoa! On the other hand, if they're willing to go out there and casualize for America, they can casualize whoever they want on their own time. And I sympathize: it's easier to be black than gay; if you're black at least you don't have to tell your mother.

George Shrub is the *nom de guerre* of Bay Area satirist Dave Lippman. Dave's new collection of topical humor, *Downsizing, Landscaping & Other Delights of the Nineties*, co-authored with George Shrub and George Stump, is available for \$6 + \$1 postage. Info, tapes and CD's are also available from Urgent Records, PO Box 10764, Oakland CA 94610.





Military Nuclear Waste

A Special GroundWork Theme Section Coordinated by Tori Woodard

This is a historic moment in the 50-year-long history of the Great Nuclear Catastrophe. Activists have much to celebrate, with the US and former Soviet Union dismantling 1000-2000 nuclear weapons per year and promising to shut down, clean up, or convert many of their nuclear weapons production plants.

This moment requires great vigilance and continued pressure by activists. Only determined action will bring an end to the nuclear terror. Left to its own, the Department of Energy (DOE) wants to build a new nuclear weapons complex for the 21st century, which they call Complex 21.

This issue of GroundWork presents Part 2 of the radioactive waste theme that our last issue began to explore. While the last issue gave a national overview of dump plans for low and high level commercial radioactive waste, this issue focuses on ten DOE nuclear weapons production sites and dumps.

Every DOE site, whether closed, open, or planned, has at least one citizen group monitoring it, disseminating information to the public, and trying to shut down nuclear activities there. I could not have written this feature section without the information that they have compiled. To contact the groups directly, see page 19.

If you need the sources for any statements made in the articles, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to GroundWork, specifying what you need. GroundWork is also interested in updates, corrections, and additional information on military nuclear waste.

All articles written by Tori Woodard, except where noted.



The Hope and the

Five years ago, who would have believed it?

The Cold War is over, and 50,000 nuclear weapons are scheduled to be dismantled over the next ten years. Currently four sites in the former Soviet Union are busy dismantling nuclear warheads. In the U.S., warheads are being dismantled at the Pantex plant 15 miles north of Amarillo, Texas. The U.S. and Russia have agreed to reduce their arsenals to about 5000 nuclear warheads each.

Taking apart a thermonuclear warhead is a technically demanding task that cannot be safely rushed. The health of plant workers, nearby residents and ecosystems must be protected during the process. For example, after a bomb accidentally fell 20 inches in May 1992, all disassembly of B-57 warheads at Pantex was halted for 38 days while the incident was investigated.

After disassembly, the components must be guarded just as carefully as the warheads themselves, or rendered useless so that new weapons cannot be made from them.

Nuclear Waste from Weapons Disassembly

The two most dangerous components of nuclear warheads are the hollow plutonium "pit" and the highly enriched uranium "secondary". The uranium is easier to render useless for weapons purposes than is plutonium. Highly enriched uranium (also called weapons grade uranium) can be diluted with large quantities of non-fissionable uranium isotopes, then used to fuel nuclear power reactors. Only a few countries have the isotope separation technology that would be required to separate out again the uranium-235 to build a bomb.

Though technologically feasible, "down-blending" weapons grade uranium will have human and environmental costs. It will stimulate a demand for non-enriched uranium, thus prompting new or renewed mining activity. Indeed, there is currently an attempt to open new uranium mines on the Navajo Reservation. Reproductive cancer is already 17 times the national average in Navajo teenagers.

Some people propose substituting plutonium for uranium in fuel for commercial power reactors, but there are several problems with this. First, the weapons-grade plutonium could be readily separated from the fuel, posing a greater proliferation risk than if the plutonium were merely guarded unused for perpetuity.

Second, below weapons-grade plutonium is produced by the fission reaction in nuclear power reactors, and is present in spent nuclear fuel. Electric utilities are not interested in using military plutonium because they already have more than enough plutonium on their hands. Also, it is much more costly to manufacture plutonium fuel rods than uranium fuel rods. Finally, this approach accepts that the cost of conversion of military nuclear facilities, is the contin-

Danger of Weapons Dismantling

ued expansion of the commercial nuclear power industry.

Some experts and many activists believe the security threat posed by weapons-grade plutonium outweighs its possible future beneficial use as a fuel. They conclude that it must be treated as a dangerous waste rather than a resource.

Highly enriched uranium from dismantled U.S. weapons is trucked from Pantex to Oak Ridge, Tennessee along Interstate 40. Most of the highly enriched uranium from Russia's dismantled warheads will be shipped to the U.S. (see page 6). The 100 tons of surplus plutonium from former USSR warheads will stay in Russia. Pantex is being asked to store the pits that it removes from warheads.

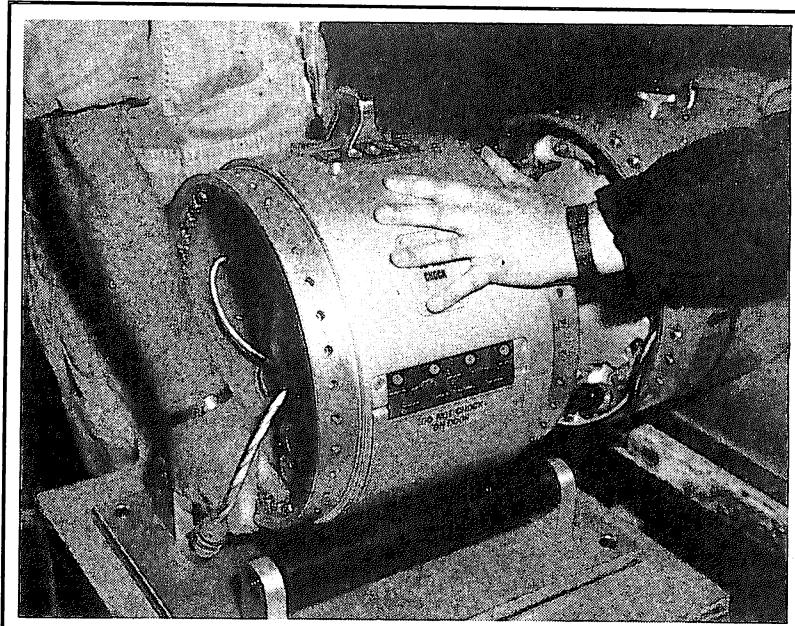
How Disarmament Nearly Came to a Halt

In January 1994 activists living near the Pantex plant had to make a very difficult decision. DOE had prepared a seriously flawed and irresponsible Environmental Assessment for the storage of 20,000 plutonium pits in bunkers at the plant. In addition to alarming mathematical miscalculations in the document, DOE was ignoring its own earlier finding that an aircraft crash into the bunkers is a credible possibility to release radioactivity off-site. Activists had to weigh the danger of allowing DOE to store the pits in a potentially unsafe area against the prospect of suing DOE and being accused of setting back the weapons disassembly program.

Fortunately, STAR (Save Texas Agriculture and Resources, a coalition of four local groups) was able to reach an agreement with DOE. But because STAR decided not to sue, the agreement is not legally enforceable. Concerned citizens nationwide must help STAR keep the pressure on DOE to fulfill the terms of the agreement. An accident must not be allowed to cause the stored pits to go critical.

DOE agreed to 13 points. First, they will store no more than 12,000 pits before they finish a site-wide Environmental

Impact Statement for Pantex. They will immediately consult with the City of Amarillo, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Air Force, Army, Navy and Marines about using alternative civilian and military flight patterns. They will cooperate with the State of Texas, which wants to independently monitor pit storage. They will store the pits in a manner that will be compatible with international verification procedures, should such be developed. They will



Pantex workers removing control panel from warhead. Pantex is dismantling one to two thousand warheads per year. DOE photo 1993.

monitor radiation exposure rates both inside and outside the bunkers. These last two agreements are crucial for global security and the safety of disarmament workers, respectively.

More Plutonium in Their Future?

The City of Amarillo, the Chamber of Commerce, and several other groups want Pantex to expand. In 1991 they worked with Pantex to submit a bid in response to DOE's Invitation for Site Proposals for Complex 21. They circulated resolutions to local governing bodies and the Texas legislature that enthusiastically endorsed Complex 21 and urged that the Pantex plant be selected for a major and enlarged role in it.

Area residents who opposed expansion successfully got several local resolutions rescinded. Thanks to their edu-

tional efforts, six legislators visited Rocky Flats, and the legislature's resolution reached the governors' desk for signature too late to be included with the bid.

The biggest furor has been over whether Pantex should take on new plutonium functions, such as research, consolidated storage of plutonium from around the country, and the processing and machining of plutonium parts that used to be done at Rocky Flats.

On Nov. 11, 1993, Pantex boosters got what they wanted when DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary announced that a laboratory to research commercial uses of plutonium would be established at Pantex.

Dr. John Gofman, former associate director of Livermore Lab, says one pound of plutonium, equally distributed in the lungs of people throughout the world, would be enough to kill

everyone on earth. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary announced in December 1993 that DOE has 33.5 metric tons (20 pounds) of weapons-grade plutonium stored in six states, with more inside nuclear weapons.

Environmental and Contamination Issues

The threat that Pantex poses to agriculture has become a unifying theme for expansion opponents. The Panhandle of Texas produces livestock, wheat, sorghum, corn, cotton, sugar beets, and other crops. The Pantex plant sits atop an enormous aquifer that extends north through eight states. Municipal, industrial and agricultural water uses are depleting the Ogallala aquifer faster than it is being recharged. Over half of the available water underlying Amarillo has been used in the

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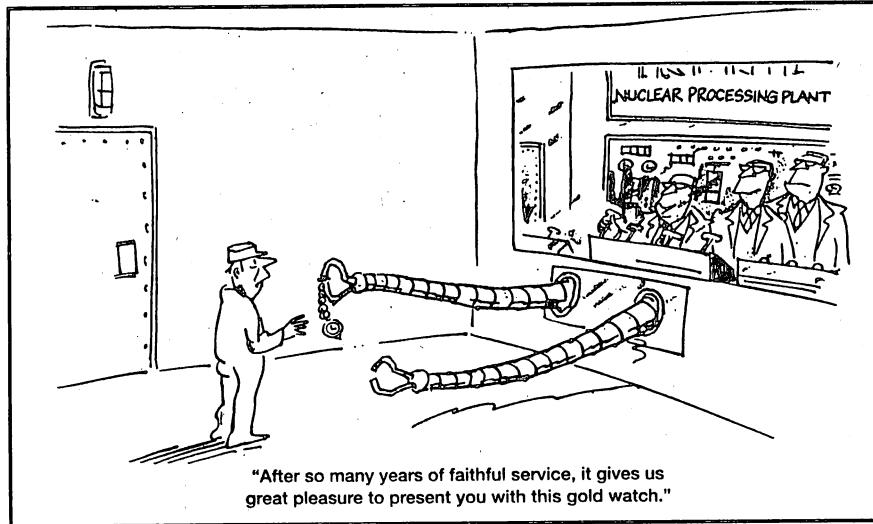




Weapons production workers facing layoffs have limited options for re-employment. They have highly specialized skills that are difficult or impossible to transfer to the private sector. Their exposure to hazardous materials increases the insurance risk to any company that re-employs them. They face limited re-training options, placement in lower paying jobs, or more hazardous work in environmental cleanup. As a result, they struggle to keep their outmoded weapons-related jobs.

The Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union has proposed a Superfund for Workers that, if enacted, would give these workers a real chance to change careers. Resembling the GI Bill, it would provide people who are displaced from environmentally destructive or military industries with four years of support for further education or training at an institution of their choice. The Superfund plan is realistic, because it would not only pay tuition, but would support the workers at the union wage in the geographical region and industrial sector in which they were employed, and continue their other benefits (such as health care and child care support) so long as they are enrolled full time.

In the absence of a comprehensive conversion plan such as the Superfund, DOE is approaching conversion in a piecemeal fashion. There is no conversion plan for most of the sites being taken out of the nuclear weapons complex. In the following section, GroundWork looks at the two plans that do exist: for DOE's uranium enrichment plants, and for Rocky Flats. Both plans emphasize "peaceful" uses of nuclear materials, rather than ending nuclear production altogether.



Weapons Dismantling

continued from page 5

past 25 years. DOE's Invitation for Site Proposals said Complex 21 sites would use about 5.2 million gallons of water per day.

In addition to wondering if the water supply can support both agriculture and an expanded Pantex, activists are worried about contamination of the aquifer. EPA has found toluene, a known carcinogen, in soil 325 feet below Pantex' unlined waste pit. The Ogallala aquifer occurs at 390 to 420 feet below the site. High explosives, hexavalent chromium, acetone, and diti- and chloroethane already contaminate the aquifer under Pantex' Zone 12.

STAR is challenging Pantex' open pit

burning of high explosives and radioactive waste. DOE has been burning waste at its 58-acre open air Burning Ground since at least 1952. In 1980 they were required by RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) to get an interim permit to continue. STAR got involved in 1993 when DOE tried to modify the "interim" permit to burn three times as much waste, including mixed wastes from other DOE and DOD sites. In response to public pressure, DOE removed the proposal to burn off-site waste. A hearing on the permit will be held this spring. There are presently no restrictions on hazardous or radioactive air emissions at Pantex.

The Promise and the

The U.S. Enrichment Corporation Approach to Conversion

DOE has already removed two facilities from its nuclear weapons complex and converted them to "peacetime" activities. The uranium enrichment plants at Portsmouth, Ohio and Paducah, Kentucky formerly enriched uranium for nuclear weapons production and commercial power reactors. Now they will produce only fuel for nuclear power plants.

In July 1993, DOE transferred the two plants to the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC), a commercial enterprise wholly owned by the U.S. Treasury. USEC is scheduled to sell itself to private investors within two years. USEC hopes to become economically viable by creating new markets for its fuel and by finding cheaper ways to produce it. Thus, through USEC, U.S. policy will push for the construction of new nuclear power plants.

What will the converted plants do?

Because of the nuclear weapons buildup in the '80s, followed by stockpile reductions in the '90s, the U.S. has 400 metric tons of surplus highly enriched uranium, and the former Soviet Union has over 500 metric tons. The U.S. agreed to buy 500 metric tons from Russia for \$10 billion over 20 years. The combined total of the two superpowers' highly enriched uranium is enough to fuel all of the nuclear power plants in the U.S. for 20 years.

Due to the glut of enriched uranium, both the Portsmouth and Paducah plants have been operating at about half-capacity. Given the circumstances, it is unlikely that either plant will continue enriching uranium. They are much more likely to get involved with diluting enriched uranium with the non-chain-reacting isotope uranium-238, so that it can be used in commercial nuclear power reactors and can no longer be used in nuclear weapons.

USEC was designated to receive the highly enriched uranium from the Russians. The first shipment of Russian uranium (40 metric tons) arrived in Portsmouth in December '93. Another 155 metric tons is expected by April '94. Though under the agreement the Russians were to dilute the highly enriched uranium before shipment, USEC says it may need

Disappointment of Conversion

to further process the Russian uranium to meet customer specifications.

The Portsmouth plant is also bringing in large quantities of depleted uranium, presumably to mix with highly enriched uranium. Vina Colley, president of Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security (PPRESS) believes DOE ducked its responsibility to clean up the Portsmouth plant by turning it over to USEC so that business could continue as usual. Already, rusty cylinders of depleted uranium are piled three-deep at the plant.

Whether or not USEC becomes a viable enterprise, the Portsmouth plant seems to be targeted for storing radioactive materials. In addition to the Russian uranium and depleted uranium, Portsmouth is also storing U.S. highly enriched uranium. And DOE is considering Portsmouth and the Nevada Test Site for storage of radioactive waste from Fernald, Ohio, a DOE site that has been closed for clean up.

Some Portsmouth workers would welcome Fernald's waste, because it would bring security guard jobs. To understand the workers' situation, one must consider that the only other employer in the Portsmouth area is the Southern Ohio Correction Facility.

Health Problems and Contamination

Aside from its role in fueling the growth of the nuclear power industry, the second biggest problem with the conver-

sion to USEC is that Portsmouth and Paducah have not been converted to environmentally friendly and health-promoting operations. PPRESS is concerned about environmental pollution

monitoring, and compensation for emotional distress and property devaluation caused by the plant's radioactive and toxic emissions.

Martin Marietta consistently fights

Workers Comp claims by its employees. DOE helps its contractors fight class action lawsuits over damage to public health and the environment. In the last 32 months, DOE spent \$47 million hiring private attorneys to fight suits at Portsmouth, Hanford, Fernald, Los Alamos, Mound, Oak Ridge, and Rocky Flats. That money does not include suits being fought directly by the U.S. Justice Department.

PPRESS believes people should not have to choose between their health and their jobs.

"This is a very poor and uneducated area, but we will do everything we can to keep the waste out," Colley said.

Vina Colley was disabled by exposure to toxic chemicals while working at the plant. She has repeatedly been denied Workers Compensation, even though she can no longer pass the physical exam required to work at the plant.

Greens in Ohio & New York Organize Against Radioactive Dumps — see page 30

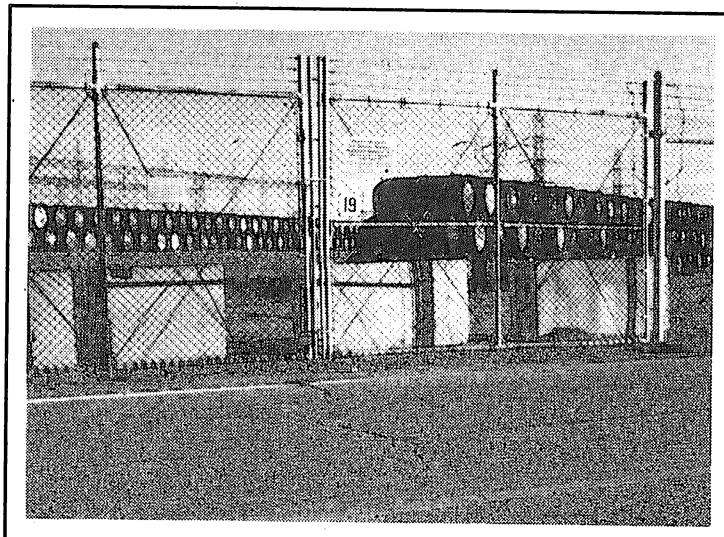
Foreign Spent Nuclear Fuel: Coming Home to Roost

DOE is currently recommending renewal of its policy (lapsed in 1988) of accepting spent nuclear fuel from foreign research reactors. Up to 15,000 spent fuel elements from 28 nations would return to the U.S. (where they came from in the first place) over the next 15 years.

Although it is not military nuclear waste, foreign spent nuclear fuel has implications for global security. The rationale for bringing it back to the U.S. is to deter proliferation of nuclear weapons. A more realistic means to that end would be for DOE to stop promoting "peaceful" uses of nuclear technology abroad.

DOE is considering the following ports of entry for the foreign spent nuclear fuel: Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia; Hampton Roads, Virginia; Oakland, California; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle-Tacoma, Washington. (Hampton Roads is at the mouth of the James River and the Chesapeake Bay - as are both Newport News and the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, which are involved with Navy spent nuclear fuel.) The fuel would then be shipped to Savannah River, INEL, and/or Hanford.

To comment on the Environmental Impact Statement that is currently being prepared on the proposal, call 1-800-242-8269 and ask them to send the draft document.



Rusted cylinders of depleted uranium at Portsmouth, Ohio. Will USEC use this to make fuel for nuclear power plants? Photo by Vina Colley.

both on- and off-site.

An April '92 Ohio EPA report revealed that fish near the Portsmouth plant contain elevated levels of radiation. The agency conducted tests after fishermen turned in fish with tumors. The flesh of other fish, when cut open, runs out in a liquid form.

Residents within a 6-mile radius of the Portsmouth plant have suffered rashes, birth defects and cancer. They are suing Martin Marietta, which has remained the contractor at the site through the transition to USEC. They want free health





Conversion of Rocky Flats:

by LeRoy Moore

Now that nuclear bombs are no longer being produced at the Rocky Flats plant 16 miles northwest of central Denver, the Department of Energy (DOE) is pushing its "National Conversion Pilot Project" for the site. As reported in a headline-grabbing December 21 press conference, this project entails "cleaning" four Rocky Flats buildings and turning them over to a private company that wants to use the buildings to make containers for nuclear waste from scrap metals — contaminated steel, beryllium, and depleted uranium. Colorado Governor Roy Romer and representatives of the United Steelworkers, the principal union at Rocky Flats, hailed the project because it may hire workers slated soon to be laid off from Rocky Flats.

DOE's "pilot project" at Rocky Flats has national implications, since it is intended to serve as a model for conversion of other DOE nuclear bomb-making facilities. This all sounds promising. But, as is often the case with DOE doings, what's not revealed may be as important as what is. Consider:

- Beryllium and depleted uranium are dangerous substances, the former toxic, the latter radioactive. One of the health

issues that surfaced after suspension of bomb production at Rocky Flats in November 1989 was that some workers at the plant had contracted the incurable lung disease berylliosis from exposure to beryllium on the job; new names may still be added to the list of 41 Rocky Flats employees already diagnosed with berylliosis. Depleted uranium is no better. Contact with this alpha-emitting metal used in shells and armor plate in the Gulf War caused extensive radiation sickness among both U.S. soldiers and Iraqi civilians. Yet DOE insists that processing these materials at Rocky Flats poses no significant danger to the public or the workforce.

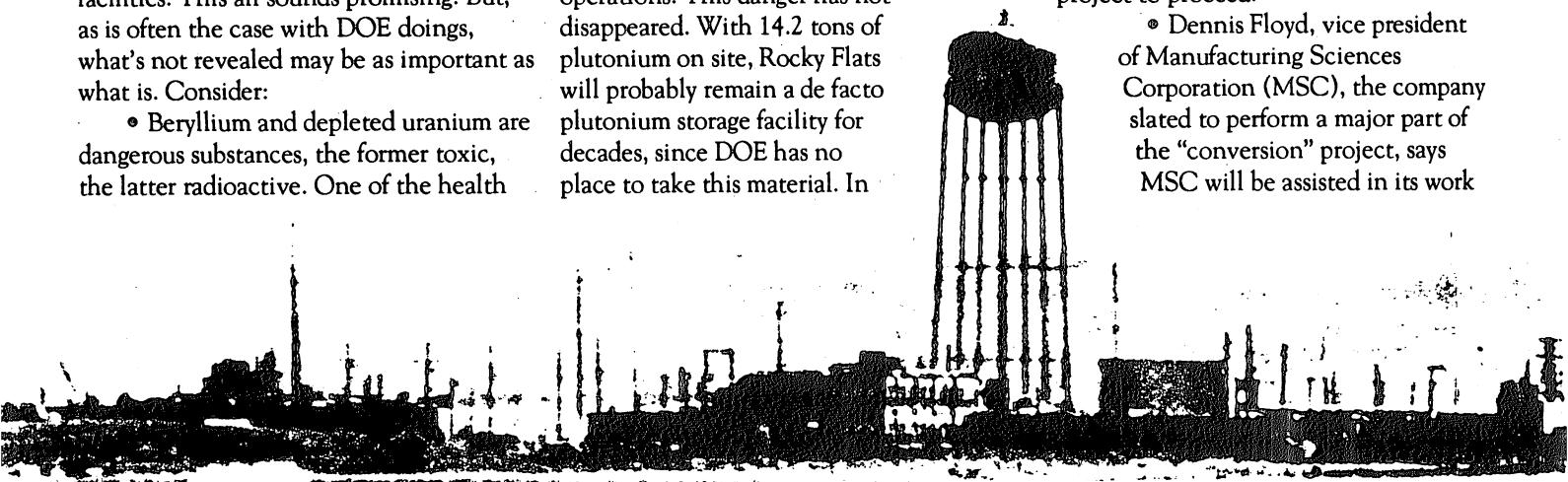
- Depleted uranium exists at Rocky Flats in a relatively small amount. If DOE's so-called "conversion" project goes forward as planned, 4 million pounds of this radioactive substance will be brought to Rocky Flats from elsewhere, primarily from DOE's plant at Fernald, Ohio.

- Traditionally, the greatest danger at Rocky Flats resulted from plutonium operations. This danger has not disappeared. With 14.2 tons of plutonium on site, Rocky Flats will probably remain a de facto plutonium storage facility for decades, since DOE has no place to take this material. In

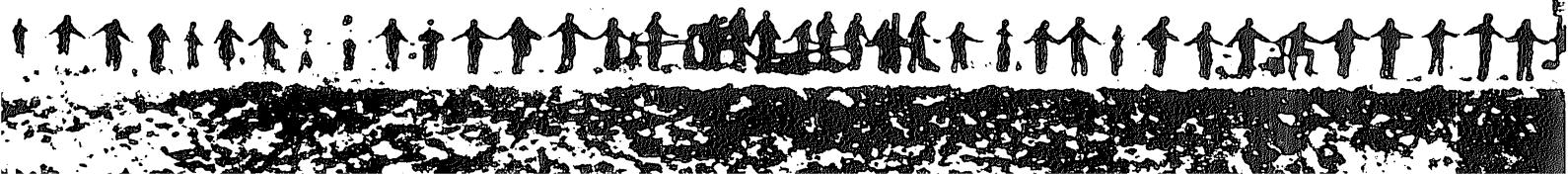
order to stabilize some of this vast quantity of plutonium, and in order to treat waste laced with plutonium and to recover the additional half ton or so of plutonium DOE estimates is lodged in vents, walls, and equipment, exceedingly hazardous plutonium processing will occur at Rocky Flats for an indefinite period. Does it seem wise, meanwhile, to open the site to other operations, needlessly risking exposure of new populations to plutonium?

- As a seriously contaminated facility, Rocky Flats is slated for cleanup under the federal Superfund law. Cleanup will cost billions and take decades. Who believes that bringing more radioactive material onto the site will enhance cleanup of Rocky Flats? Likewise, who thinks that the best way to clean Rocky Flats is to use parts of the facility to continue manufacture with toxic and radioactive materials? Would allowing this kind of activity compromise cleanup of the whole facility? Evidently, exceptions to Superfund regulations must be negotiated for the project to proceed.

- Dennis Floyd, vice president of Manufacturing Sciences Corporation (MSC), the company slated to perform a major part of the "conversion" project, says MSC will be assisted in its work



Encircling Rocky Flats, October 15, 1983: Public pressure and direct action played a major role in closing Rocky Flats. Photos courtesy of Rocky Mountain Peace Center, Boulder.



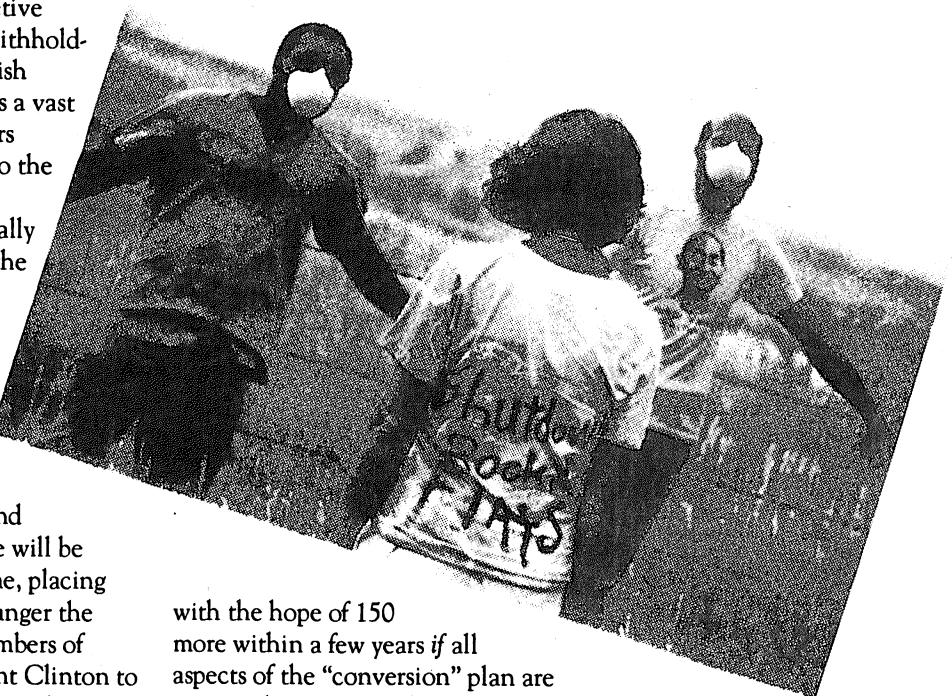
Is It for Real?



at Rocky Flats by British Nuclear Fuels Limited (BNFL). Floyd doesn't report that within the highly secretive British nuclear industry, BNFL has a record of withholding self-incriminating information from the British public. Nor does he mention that BNFL oversees a vast international trade in plutonium, or that for years BNFL has dumped radioactive waste directly into the Irish Sea from its operations at Sellafield on the Cumbrian coast of northwest England. Do we really need BNFL at Rocky Flats? Contamination of the Irish Sea is already one of the largest nuclear scandals in Europe.

• Manufacturing nuclear waste storage containers from radioactive and toxic waste is a bad idea. Burial of nuclear waste has been held up in the courts for years due to public opposition. The containers themselves would increase the danger of contaminating underground water supplies. Assuming, as we must, that waste will be stored on site at Rocky Flats for an indefinite time, placing this waste in such containers will needlessly endanger the health of those who monitor it. Meanwhile, members of Congress and others are currently urging President Clinton to appoint a Blue Ribbon Commission to provide an independent evaluation of all aspects of the nuclear waste problem in the hopes of finding better solutions than, for instance, radioactive containers.

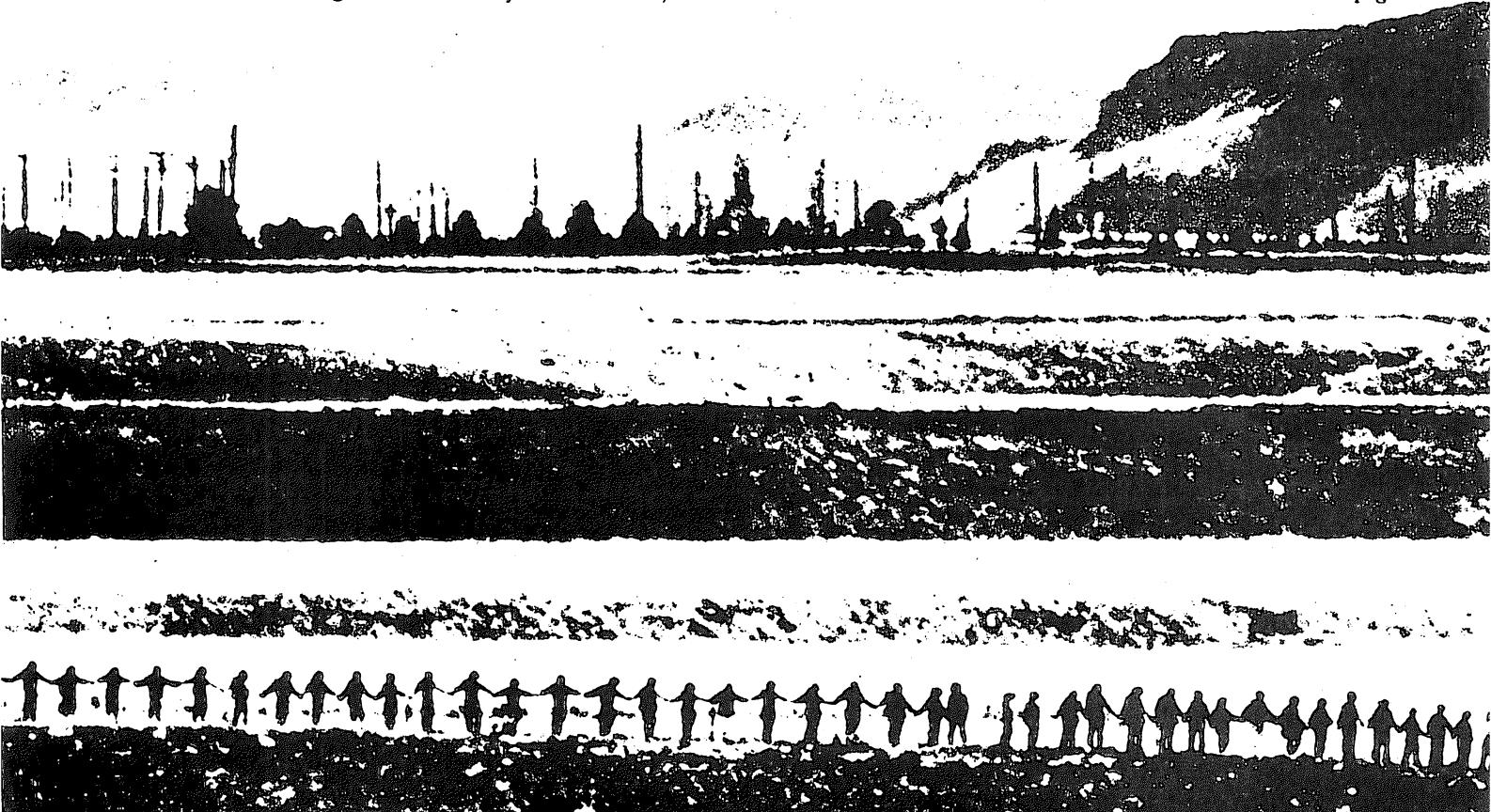
• Union workers at Rocky Flats have been persuaded to support DOE's ill-conceived "conversion" plan. In November 1989, when production was halted for safety reasons, the workforce stood at 5,800. All the union has received from the deal it has struck is a guarantee of 100 jobs from MSC,



with the hope of 150 more within a few years if all aspects of the "conversion" plan are approved. Some people would call this decimation (or union-busting), not "conversion".

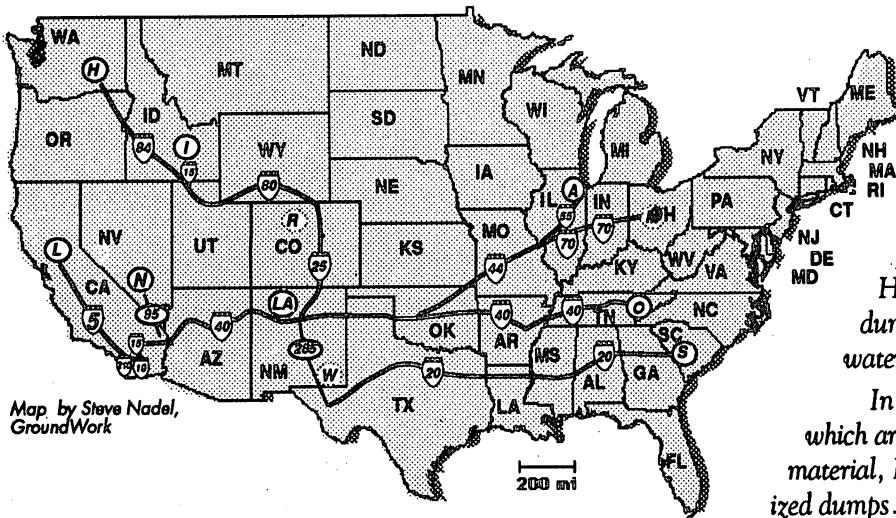
• The primary mission of the recently created Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is to advise DOE and other government agencies regarding cleanup of Rocky Flats. DOE says its "conversion" plan is part of its overall effort to clean up the Rocky Flats site. Yet the Advisory Board was not even informed that DOE intended to announce the "conversion" project. This seems an act of consum-

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Are YOU on a WIPP Route?



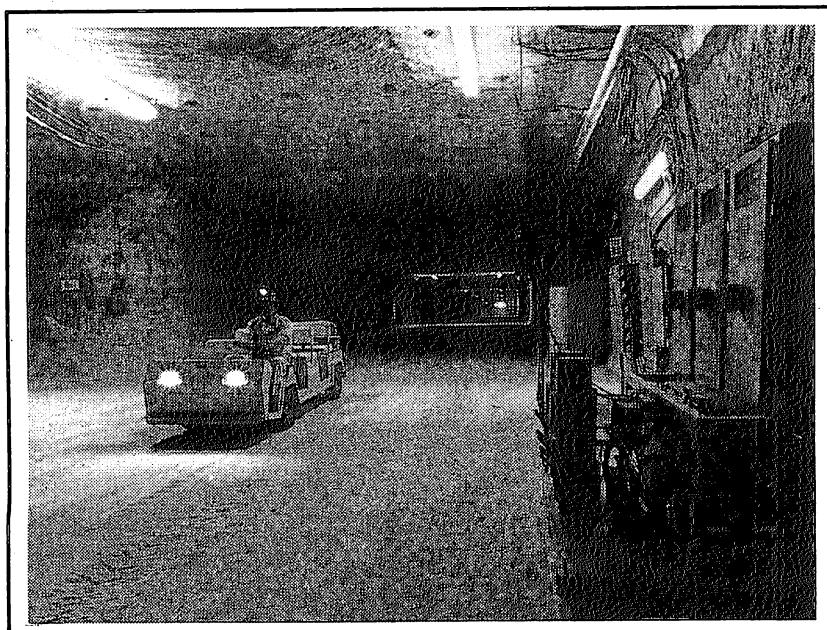
Key To Sites	
(L) Livermore / Sandia	(I) Idaho Nuclear Engineering Laboratory
(N) Nevada Test Site	(R) Rocky Flats
(H) Hanford	(LA) Los Alamos
(A) Argonne	(O) Oak Ridge
(W) Waste Isolation Pilot Plant	(S) Savannah River
(M) Mound	
— (84) — US Interstate	— (285) — Federal Route

Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP)

DOE constructed WIPP (Waste Isolation Pilot Project) near Carlsbad, New Mexico, to store transuranic waste that was generated by the military since 1970. The primary transuranic destined for WIPP is plutonium; 60% of it is mixed with hazardous chemicals, solvents, and heavy metals such as lead. DOE wants to bring 29,000 truckloads of waste to WIPP from ten DOE facilities (see map) during the 25-year life of the repository.

WIPP is a deep vertical shaft, from which tunnels radiate horizontally in a salt deposit 2,150 feet below the surface. Drums of waste are planned to be stored in alcoves that

were dug out along the tunnels. Above the salt deposit is ground water; below it is a



WIPP Panel #1, with seven storage rooms 33 feet wide by 13 feet high by 300 feet long. The salt bed is 2150 feet below surface. DOE photo.

The Waste that Won't Go Away

Every facility in the nuclear weapons complex has its own waste dumps. Many of these must now be exhumed, which increases the amount of waste. Other on-site dumps have been or will be "capped" by pouring a waterproof cover such as concrete over them.

However, that won't prevent radiation in the dumps from migrating off-site via underground water, rodents, and other means.

In addition to all the on-site dumps, some of which are vast and contain highly radioactive material, DOE transports nuclear waste to centralized dumps. Currently DOE ships waste to the Nevada Test Site, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL), and the Savannah River Site. They are also planning new dumps at Yucca Mountain and WIPP.

brine reservoir.

The salt deposit has not turned out to be "bone dry" as anticipated. Brine that seeps into the alcoves could corrode the barrels and mix with the waste. The resulting radioactive slurry could travel to the surface through a drill hole that ventilates the alcoves.

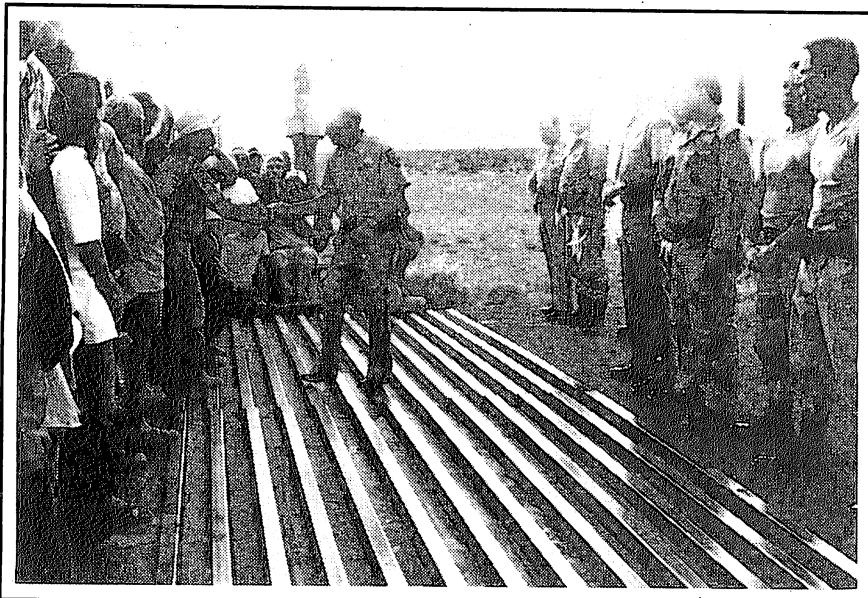
The brine reservoir contains hydrogen-sulfide gas at 300 times the concentration that would kill a person wearing a respirator. If the gas entered the repository, human beings would lose control of the repository.

Another problem is that explosive gases build up in the waste containers and could explode, forcing the waste out of the storage rooms. For safety reasons it is important to label the contents of each drum of waste; however, each drum costs from \$500 to \$2000 to evaluate.

Public outcry about these and other problems has prevented DOE from storing any

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Nevada Test Site: A Dumping Ground



Western Shoshone elder Bill Rosse shakes hands with a Nevada Test Site official during a 1992 protest. Thousands of people have protested and been arrested at the Test Site in the past decade, helping force the U.S. government to stop testing. Photo c. 1992,

Caroline Dossche. More Nevada Test Site news — pages 27, 48.

Yucca Mountain “Sacrifice Area”

On the western boundary of the Nevada Test Site is Yucca Mountain, which Congress designated as the only site in the nation to be considered for the first deep geologic storage of high level nuclear waste. Both military and commercial waste will be deposited there if the site is opened.

The State of Nevada is adamantly opposed to the repository. DOE wants to bring 28,000 highway and 10,000 rail shipments to Yucca Mountain over the 28-year life of the repository. If the waste is stored first in a Monitored Retrievable Storage facility (see the last issue of *GroundWork*), it will have to be moved twice.

As discussed in the last issue of *GroundWork*, groundwater and seismic activity make it questionable that tunnels inside Yucca Mountain could isolate radionuclides from the environment for the 10,000 years that DOE thinks they will be hazardous. Actually, plutonium remains hazardous for 250,000 years.

By law, DOE is only allowed to put 70,000 metric tons of uranium from spent nuclear fuel elements into the first

repository. The nation's 110 nuclear power plants will have produced 40,000 metric tons of uranium by the year 2000. Thus, even if the Yucca Mountain repository goes forward, it's doubtful that the mountain contains sufficient host rock for all the waste that the military and the nuclear power industry hope to bury there.

The Nevada Test Site is 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Both the Nevada Test Site and Yucca Mountain are on treaty land of the Shoshone Nation. The Shoshone oppose all nuclear activities on their land, and have been actively involved in demonstrations and educational efforts around the two sites [see past issues of *GroundWork*].

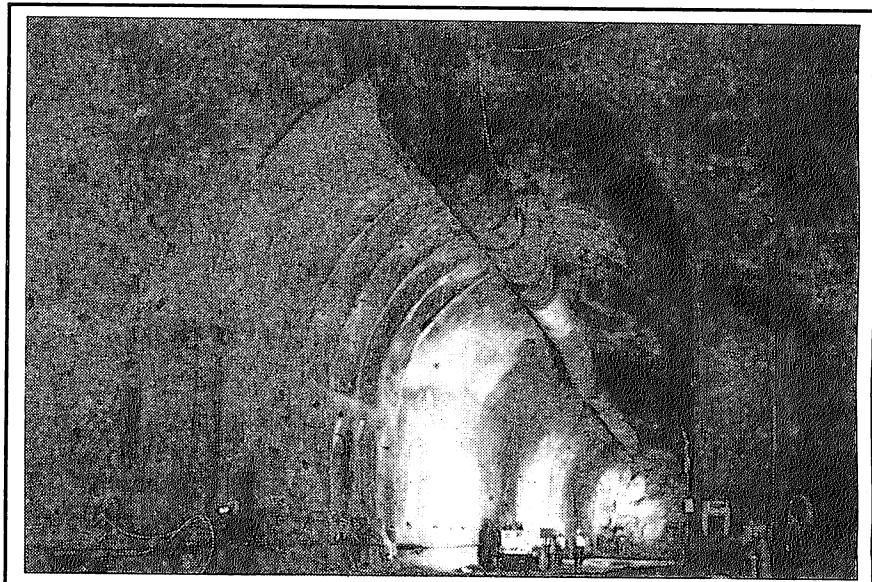
More than 1000 nuclear weapons were exploded at Nevada Test Site since 1951. The soil at the site is heavily contaminated from nuclear testing. Both above-ground and underground tests released radionuclides into the air, and there is evidence that radionuclides have gotten into the groundwater.

What is less well-known is that the Test Site has 4 active nuclear waste sites. One is a crater that subsided when a bomb was exploded beneath it; the waste in it is unpackaged. Another is a hole that was drilled and encased. A third is an old silver mine. The fourth is a shallow landfill.

Navy Dump in Idaho

The Idaho National Engineering Lab's primary purpose has been to separate enriched uranium from naval and experimental reactor spent fuel for use in nuclear weapons. By mass, 75% of all U.S. buried transuranic waste is at INEL (2 million cubic feet). The site also stores 46% of all retrievable, stored transuranic waste (another 2 million cubic feet). Separate from those wastes are 3 million cubic feet

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A scene from Dante's Inferno? Almost. Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE photo.



Savannah River: Targeted for Waste

For forty years the Savannah River site in southwestern South Carolina produced tritium and plutonium for nuclear weapons. All of the site's five production reactors are now shut down, yet the facility still employs over 20,000 workers.

Savannah River has two huge "canyons" — long, narrow facilities which workers never enter, but operate from atop thick concrete walls. F Canyon was used to extract plutonium; H Canyon was used to process enriched uranium and tritium. The only portion of the canyons now operating is the B-Line in H Canyon, which is processing plutonium-238 for the Cassini spacecraft scheduled for launch toward Saturn in 1997.

DOE wants to restart other portions of H Canyon and the B-Line in F Canyon to prepare spent nuclear fuel and other radioactive materials for long-term storage or disposal. The Energy Research Foundation in Columbia, South Carolina is negotiating with DOE to have an Environmental Impact Statement prepared on the restart proposal. If DOE does not agree to do an EIS, the Energy Research Foundation will sue to get one, as they have done several times in the past over other DOE proposals.

Targeted for Tritium Functions

Savannah River is one of DOE's five candidates for Complex 21, and due to its history is the candidate most likely to be assigned functions associated with tritium. Tritium is a radioactive form of hydrogen

that readily combines with oxygen to form radioactive water. It is extremely mobile in the environment. Two tritium recovery facilities are currently running at Savannah River; the old one will close when the new one is demonstrated to work satisfactorily. The tritium recovery

facilities unload, purify, and reload tritium in nuclear warheads. By September 1994, DOE also plans to transfer to Savannah River the tritium surveillance and sales activities previously performed by the Mound, Ohio plant.

Targeted for Radioactive Waste

Several different DOE Environmental Impact Statements are currently considering Savannah River as well as INEL and Hanford for storage of spent nuclear fuel from Navy ship and submarine reactors, commercial power reactors, and foreign research reactors (see sidebar page 7). Savannah River already receives shipments of low level and transuranic waste

from other federal installations. (It is also adjacent to Barnwell, a commercial Low Level Radioactive Waste landfill discussed in the last issue of *GroundWork*.)

Contamination and Cleanup Issues

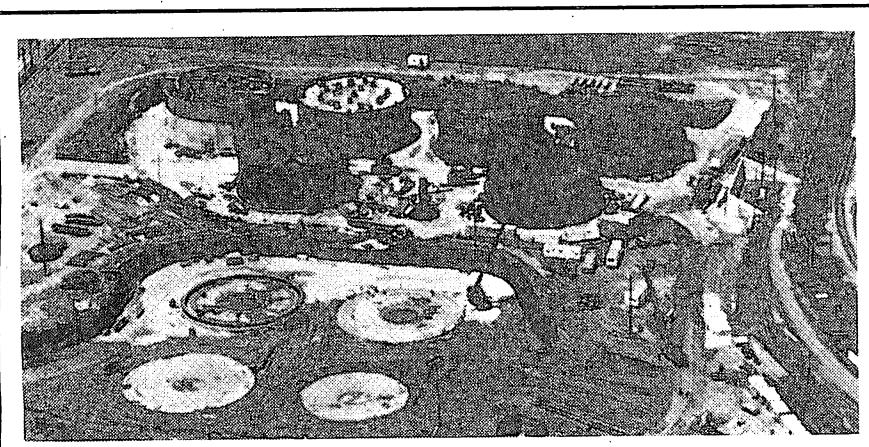
Savannah River has not had a beneficial impact on the environment to date. Until 1984 they buried transuranic waste on-site in plastic bags and cardboard boxes. Through 1976 they had discharged 40 tons of non-enriched uranium, which will stay radioactive virtually forever (it has a half-life of 4.5 billion years).

Tritium concentrations in the groundwater beneath Savannah River's low level radioactive waste burial grounds are 50,000 times the federal drinking water guideline. One plume of tritium has begun to surface in a stream that flows into the Savannah River.

Savannah River operations generate millions of gallons of waste water containing uranium, neutralized acids, solvents, heavy metals, and other chemicals and radionuclides hazardous to human health. Until just a few years ago, much of it was poured into seepage basins or directly into streams. Now an Effluent Treatment Facility removes hazardous contaminants from liquid wastes. The "cleaned" water is discharged into surface streams. Because hazardous materials regulations don't cover radionuclides, the Effluent Treatment



The 1990 Hiroshima Day vigil at Savannah River "Free Speech Area" drew many participants. Photo courtesy Energy Research Foundation.



High-level waste storage tanks being built at Savannah River in the early 1980s. Photo by Department of Energy.

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Oak Ridge: Novel Disposal Methods Fail



The Oak Ridge Reservation 15 miles west of Knoxville, Tennessee, has three major plants, which are code named K-25, X-10 and Y-12.

K-25 was a gaseous diffusion plant that shut down in 1964 due to a surplus of weapons-grade uranium. Part of the plant did classified work related to the Strategic Defense Initiative (Star Wars). Today the K-25 plant is focused on waste storage, treatment and disposal.

The concrete basement of the huge K-25 building now stores more than 120,000 barrels of hazardous and radioactive waste. Many of the buildings on the site await decontamination and dismantling. The task is enormous: for example, there are 21 miles of asbestos-wrapped pipes to dispose of, and at least 100 acres of flat roofs that must be kept patched until dismantlement occurs. And where the waste from decontamination and dismantling will go is anyone's guess.

X-10 was first a pilot plutonium production plant, then turned to basic research when it was re-named the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in 1948.

ORNL manufactures and sells radioactive isotopes, and has the most powerful research reactor in the world.

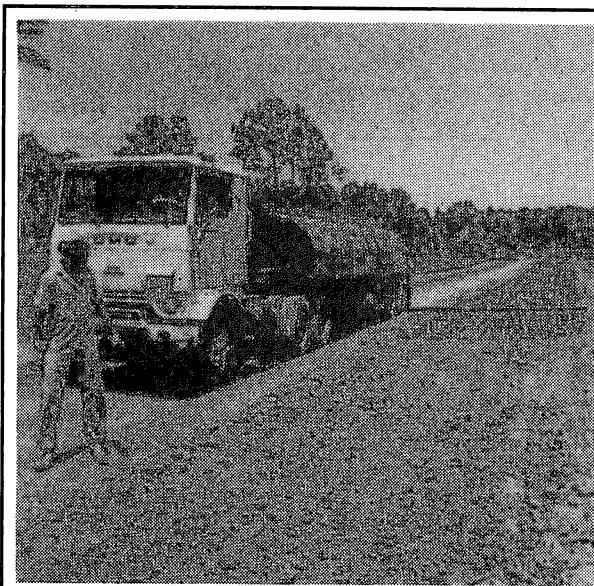
ORNL has experimented with some novel waste disposal techniques. They tried to vitrify radioactive waste in the ground by running such huge amounts of electricity through the ground that it turned the soil into glass. "In situ vitrification" turned out to be impractical, however, because it generates radioactive steam from moisture in the soil. The vapor must be collected in hoods over the site and treated as waste.

From 1959 to 1984, ORNL disposed of 5 million gallons of intermediate level liquid radioactive waste in two successive "hydrofracture" facilities. First they forced high pressure fluid into geologic formations to create deep, subsurface fractures. Then they mixed liquid radioactive waste

with cement and other additives to form a grout. Finally, they injected the grout into the deep fractures.

In 1984 DOE discontinued the hydrofracture disposal method because it did not meet the Underground Injection Control Regulations of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Monitoring wells indicate the groundwater near both hydrofracture sites is contaminated with radioactivity, which means the grout did not effectively contain the radioactive waste.

In 1991 ORNL received international



Worker spreading contaminated oil at Oak Ridge Oil Farm.
Photo by DOE.

media attention when truck tires set off geiger counters after running over frogs on the site. ORNL responded by capturing as many frogs as possible and disposing of them as waste.

The Y-12 Plant at Oak Ridge first made weapons grade uranium, then switched to separating lithium-6 from lithium-7 for hydrogen bombs. Lithium isotope separation requires a large amount of toxic liquid metal mercury. It has been estimated that over half of all the mined mercury in the world was once in Oak Ridge. The exact amount used, if known, is still classified. Over 2 million pounds of mercury were "lost to the environment" at Oak Ridge or remain unaccounted for.

In recent years Y-12 worked closely with the nuclear weapons design labs to develop and manufacture components to

be tested at the Nevada Test Site. Currently, enriched uranium from dismantled nuclear weapons is transported from Pantex to Y-12 for storage, re-processing, or "disposal".

Management at Y-12 has been shockingly cavalier in its handling of toxic and radioactive wastes. They dropped containers of water-reactive materials and potentially explosive materials into the abandoned Kerr Hollow Quarry, then shot the containers to release their contents. They plowed more than 1 million gallons of liquid oily wastes containing PCBs, beryllium, depleted uranium, and tetrachlorethane into the soil at the Oil Landfarm Site. They poured 5 million gallons of radioactive mop water into standpipes inserted vertically into the ground, as well as into unlined soil trenches and directly onto the ground.

In addition to the specially noteworthy waste practices mentioned here, K-25, X-10 and Y-12 have radioactive burial grounds, sludge ponds, seepage pits, and burn areas too numerous to explore in detail.

What future for Oak Ridge?

Oak Ridge is one of the five candidates for Complex 21. Even if it is not selected as part of Complex 21, no doubt Oak Ridge will continue to store highly enriched uranium for DOE for the foreseeable future.

WIPP

continued from page 10

waste in WIPP to date. (WIPP was scheduled to start receiving waste in 1988.)

The City of Carlsbad supports WIPP because it creates jobs. However, the multi-cultural All Peoples Coalition in Albuquerque notes that New Mexico, the nation's third poorest state, already has more nuclear weapons and waste facilities per person than any other state, and that communities of color are disproportionately targeted for nuclear and toxic waste disposal. Many Native Americans and people with Hispanic surnames reside in the state.

Even if WIPP opens, it won't solve DOE's transuranic waste problem. It was

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The Illusion of Cleanup:

DOE's 1994 budget contains about \$5 billion for cleanup and waste management and \$3.5 billion for nuclear weapons projects. Unfortunately, that \$5 billion won't produce many tangible results. For one thing, none of it goes toward technology development; Congress funds that separately. Hanford got about \$2 billion of the \$5 billion. This section compares what needs to be done with the \$2 billion to what is actually being done with it.

Background

In the early

'80s, Hanford was the site of many anti-nuclear direct actions. Since 1987, when Hanford's last plutonium production reactor (called N-reactor) was shut down because it was cooled like the reactor at Chernobyl, activists have been less adversarial in their approach.

The Hanford Site in south central

Washington State was built as part of the Manhattan Project. Its purpose has always been to produce plutonium for nuclear

high-level waste and 500,000 cubic feet of transuranic waste. Hanford buried 18,000,000 cubic feet of "low-level" waste and 3,900,000 cubic feet of transuranic waste. By 1984 their reprocessing facility had discharged 210,000,000,000 gallons of radioactive waste into the groundwater (yes, that's the right number of zeros). The N-reactor also discharged 1 billion gallons to the soil annually.

Over 500,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste have leaked from storage tanks. Other wastes were intentionally released into the Columbia River,

which flows through the site.

Stabilizing the High Level Waste

Now DOE faces the daunting task of cleaning up the mess. Probably the most urgent concern is Hanford's 177 high-level waste tanks. The tanks are huge: most of them can hold one million gallons. At



Radioactive waste was buried in cardboard boxes in shallow trenches at Hanford until at least 1988. DOE has similar photos of other nuclear sites, including one at Oak Ridge dumped near standing water. Photo by DOE.

weapons. The Yakima Indian Reservation is 20 miles west of Hanford.

Massive Waste Problems

As a result of plutonium production, Hanford has the greatest volume of radioactive waste of any site in the U.S. Hanford stores 8,200,000 cubic feet of

Rocky Flats

continued from page 9

mate bad faith on DOE's part.

Given the issues raised above, one would think, DOE, in its new, much touted spirit of openness, would insist on participation of the informed public from the outset in design and conception of the project. On the contrary, public involvement has been scant. MSC would argue, and does, that public participation has been extensive, since its corporate spokesperson has discussed the project with numerous individuals and groups. Getting MSC's pitch, however, is no substitute for genuine public involvement.

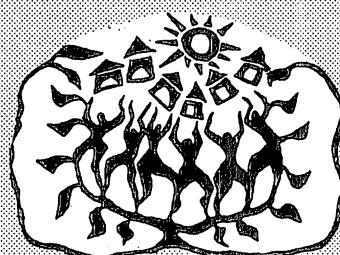
DOE says its "conversion" project for Rocky Flats will go through three stages: planning (focused largely on getting regulatory approval), initial implementation (transfer of the relevant buildings to MSC), and recycling (actual manufacture of containers from beryllium and depleted uranium). At each stage the project is

subject to review, modification, possible termination. The public so far has been poorly informed and minimally involved. This must change. Otherwise the "National Conversion Pilot Project" sets a shoddy standard for conversion of other DOE facilities.

LeRoy Moore, Ph.D., a consultant for the Rocky Mountain Peace Center, offers courses on nonviolent social change at the University of Colorado and is a member of the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board.

GroundWork #3 covering low-level nuclear waste still available

The last issue of *GroundWork* focused on "low-level" nuclear waste produced by nuclear reactors. Copies are available for \$3. We will also begin a subscription with a copy of that issue if requested. Contact *GroundWork*.



A Case Study at Hanford



least sixty-seven of them are leaking. They contain many different types of chemicals and radionuclides mixed together. Accurate records were not kept regarding what went into them, and DOE's sampling attempts haven't shed much light on the contents. Some of the tanks burp explosive hydrogen gas; others contain explosive chemicals. It is vital to get the waste into a more stable form.

First DOE must get the waste out of the tanks. That will be difficult because much of it is sludge and salt-cake that resists being pumped. Technology to retrieve the waste safely is not yet available.

Assuming Congress adequately funds research efforts and DOE manages to retrieve the waste from the tanks, the next step will be separating out the high level waste, which is mostly cesium and strontium. Appropriate technology is available for removing cesium, but must be developed for removing strontium. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission agreed to call the remaining waste "incidental"; it will be too radioactive to be called "low level".

The next step will entail melting the waste into glass (vitrification). Other countries successfully vitrify high level wastes from nuclear power plants. However, the complexity of mixed wastes from nuclear weapons production has prevented DOE from doing it here to date. Concerns that the waste will explode have prevented DOE's only vitrification plant (at Savannah River) from ever starting up. The Hanford vitrification plant would be similar, but would have to handle even more complex and volatile wastes than at Savannah River.

Hanford will have to build its vitrification plant for high level waste in a "canyon" with very thick walls. Workers will operate and maintain the melter from the tops of the walls. To save money and meet its schedule, DOE won't vitrify the incidental waste in a remote control canyon; instead, employees will work closely with it. The vitrification plants won't start operating for at least 15 years.

Liquid glass containing incidental waste will remain at Hanford. It may be poured into casks, canisters, or directly into a vault on the site. Alternatively,

once it has hardened, the incidental waste glass may be crushed, put into sulfur concrete, and stored in a vault.

Liquid glass containing high level waste will be poured into either casks or canisters and stored for eventual shipment to Yucca Mountain, should it ever open.

Activists Prod DOE to Do It Right

Even with the unknowns, the fact that DOE is pursuing vitrification is a victory for activists concerned with Hanford. DOE wanted to mix the inciden-

Hanford Workers Not Moving Forward

What is happening to that money?

Much of it is being paid to Hanford's workforce, which increased from 14,000 in 1987 to 17,800 in 1993. According to Todd Martin at the Hanford Education Action League, only a few hundred employees are working on the tank farm problem. For at least two years, Martin said, most of the rest have had nothing to do. Many spend their time playing cards. It would make more sense to pay them to



*"Keep It Shut. Clean It Up." April 1987 protest, shortly after the closing of Hanford.
Photo c. 1987 by Dana Schuerholz.*

tal waste into grout and store it in 270 vaults. Activists opposed that plan because radioisotopes can escape from grout, as shown at Oak Ridge. Vitrification, of course, is more expensive than mixing grout.

In recent years, instead of doing civil disobedience, activists have kept busy pressuring DOE to meet milestones that were set by an agreement between DOE, the U.S. EPA, and the Washington State Department of Ecology. There are 1400 separate sites at Hanford that need clean up. Of those, DOE has finished only two. There's a real danger that if DOE doesn't make progress toward its milestones, Congress will withdraw funding for the cleanup. Congress is starting to think it's pouring money down a rat hole at Hanford.

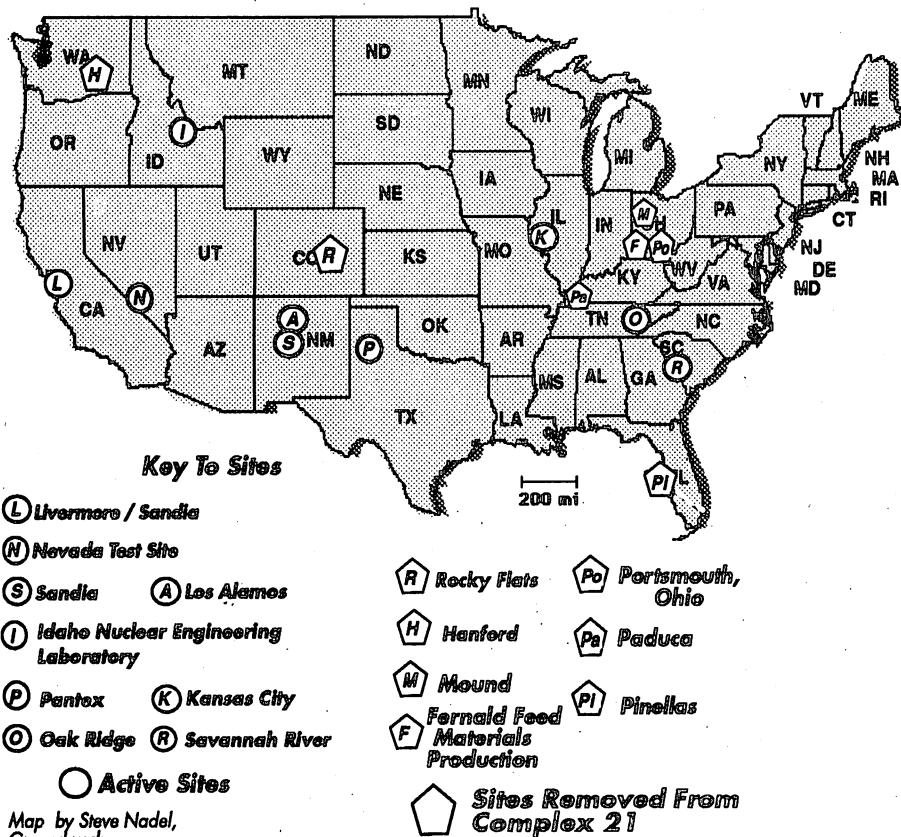
study, along the lines of the Superfund for Workers proposal, while technology is being developed for the wastes. They could be required to keep Hanford informed of their whereabouts, so that they could be contacted whenever DOE needs to know what they buried where.

Of course, as things stand now, * Westinghouse, DOE's contractor at Hanford, has every incentive to hire more people. All DOE contracts are cost plus. That means DOE reimburses Westinghouse for the cost of everyone's salary, plus 15 cents on each salary dollar.

To comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for DOE's nationwide Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program, call 1-800-472-2756 and ask them to send you the draft when it is finished.

The Disaster of Continued Production

The Transition To Complex 21



Despite the dissolution of the Soviet Union; with complete disregard for the catastrophic economic and environmental costs, not to mention the security risk; and with an obsessive determination that borders on insanity, DOE continues to manufacture nuclear weapons components and intends to keep doing so indefinitely.

The Current Nuclear Weapons Complex

As of 9/94, DOE's nuclear weapons complex is to consist of three labs (Livermore National Laboratory, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Sandia Laboratory), four production sites (Kansas City, Pantex, Oak Ridge, and Savannah River), and the Nevada Test Site. (Sandia has two facilities, in Albuquerque and in Livermore, California. Kansas City produces non-nuclear parts for nuclear weapons.)

Three other plants (Pinellas, Florida; Mound, Ohio; and Rocky Flats, Colorado) will continue to make non-nuclear parts for nuclear weapons until 9/94, at which point all of their non-nuclear functions are to be transferred to Kansas City. DOE's Environmental Restoration and Waste

Management wing [EM] will then take over their buildings for cleanup.

Hanford and the Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio, have already been transferred to DOE's EM wing. The nuclear production aspect of Rocky Flats is officially "in transition," but whether it's in transition to EM or to conversion before cleanup is not yet clear (see Leroy Moore's article on page 8).

The Future Nuclear Weapons Complex

In 1988 DOE started planning to modernize the nuclear weapons complex, because its old plants don't meet today's environmental and safety standards. They are still pushing that plan, though they have down-sized it somewhat in response to the START I and START II arms reduction treaties. A lawsuit filed and won by the Natural Resources Defense Council forced DOE to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on Complex 21.

The EIS considers consolidating all nuclear aspects of nuclear weapons production into one site, or keeping them dispersed as they are now. DOE is considering five sites for the consolidated facility

or parts of it: Pantex, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, the Nevada Test Site, and the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

In the EIS, DOE suggests co-locating all research and development, processing, and fabrication facilities for plutonium at one of the five sites. That would mean transporting plutonium from Hanford, Rocky Flats, and DOE's four other plutonium storage facilities to that site. DOE also wants to co-locate all uranium/lithium functions at one site; ditto for tritium. The consolidated sites for these elements could all be at one site, or each could be at a separate site.

Given their previous work with those elements, Pantex is most likely to be chosen for the consolidated plutonium facility, Oak Ridge for uranium/lithium, and Savannah River for tritium. The EIS doesn't consider the obvious cost-saving move of consolidating the three weapons labs. The labs will only lose any of their functions if plutonium, uranium, and tritium functions are co-located; in that case some of the labs' plutonium, uranium, and tritium research would be transferred to the consolidated facility(ies). Otherwise, DOE plans to have all three labs continue to design new nuclear weapons.

Even worse, the labs are moving into weapons production. DOE considers Livermore and Los Alamos candidates for Rocky Flats' old function of manufacturing plutonium parts. Livermore is already building prototype plutonium triggers by a new process, presumably so DOE will select them instead of Los Alamos for the job. DOE already decided to send several production functions to Sandia's Albuquerque facility when Mound and Pinellas closed. One of those functions is production of neutron generators, which are technically a "non-nuclear" component.

The EIS also discusses DOE's desire to build a new tritium production reactor. After five years of unsuccessfully trying to restart the tritium production reactor at Savannah River, DOE gave up and now wants a new one for Complex 21.

DOE isn't clamoring for new uranium or plutonium production; instead, they face the problem of storing the vast quantities of enriched uranium and plutonium that they have already made.

To submit your comments on the EIS for Complex 21, call 1-800-472-2756.

The Navy's Nuclear Waste

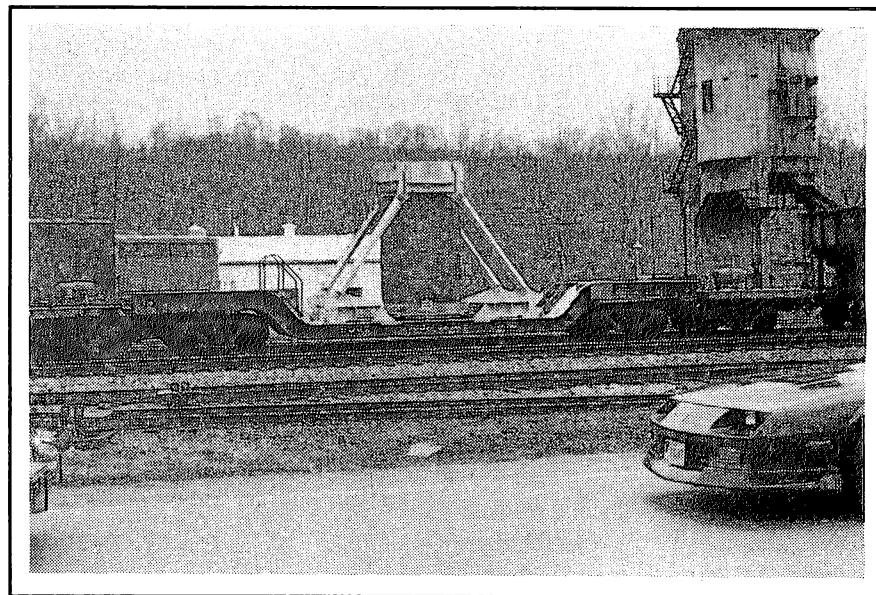


Since 1973 there have been no viable orders for new commercial nuclear reactors in this country. However, during that same period the Navy kept the industry alive by building 72 nuclear reactors; another 17 are to be completed by the late 1990s. As of May 1993 the Navy had decommissioned 66 reactors, 30 of which were buried at DOE's Hanford Site. By the year 2000, reactors on an additional 45 nuclear submarines and three or four surface ships will begin decommissioning.

In addition to decommissioning waste, all of the Navy's propulsion reactors, as well as its experimental reactors at Knolls Atomic Power Lab and INEL, generate spent nuclear fuel. The Navy also generates low level radioactive waste.

Since 1957 the Navy has made 500 rail shipments to INEL of spent nuclear fuel containing weapons grade uranium. Until 1992 the rail shipments were kept secret. That year, activists from Knolls Action Project in Albany, New York; Nuke-watch in Madison, Wisconsin; and the Snake River Alliance in Idaho joined together to track the shipments and bring them to public attention.

The railroads unsuccessfully tried to lose the activists along the route. Activists succeeded in locating one train enough times that they could make a press statement when it arrived in Idaho. That created an uproar because the State of Idaho was already suing DOE over using INEL as



A shipment of nuclear waste rolls through downtown Lynchburg, Virginia en route from the Navy facility at Newport News, Virginia to Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Photo courtesy of Michael Ross.

a dumping ground for commercial and research reactor spent fuel, and over the site's deteriorating spent nuclear fuel storage facilities. Because activists publicized the Navy's shipment, Idaho extended the suit to cover the Navy.

When the federal court ruled in favor of Idaho, the Navy had to cease shipments. Activists tracked one train that had to turn around in Kansas City and return to Newport News, Virginia - one of

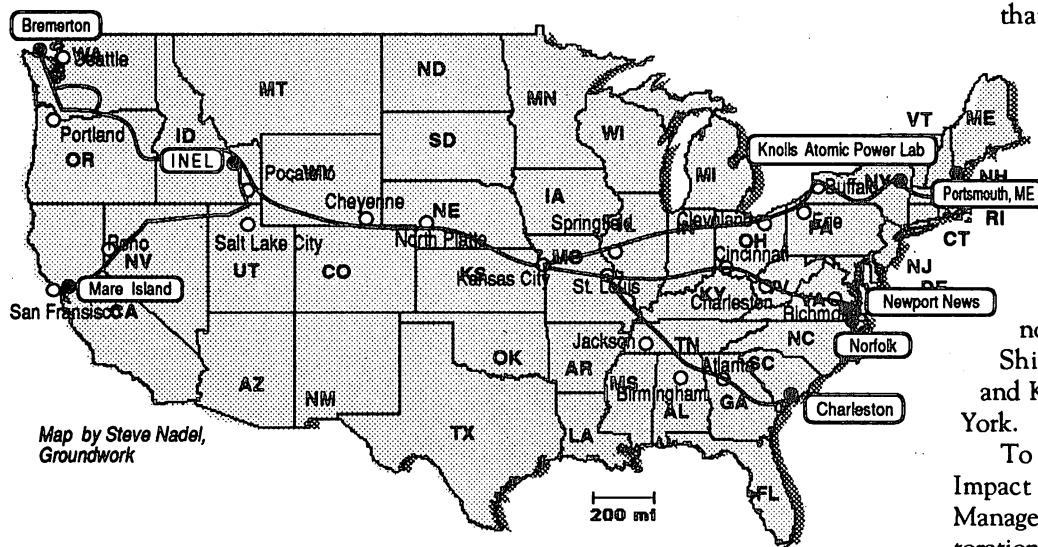
the two most active nuclear shipyards in the country.

The state of Idaho and the Navy have since reached a compromise, whereby the Navy can ship 19 containers of spent nuclear fuel in the next two years, while DOE prepares an Environmental Impact Statement on alternative sites for storing and processing spent fuel. That's a 70% reduction in the number of shipments the Navy had planned during those two years, brought about by a determined group of activists.

Unfortunately, the only alternatives that DOE considers in its Environmental Impact Statements are alternative locations. DOE is considering the following alternative sites for storage of the Navy's spent fuel: Hanford; Savannah River; Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Virginia; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery, Maine; Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Honolulu, Hawaii; Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington; and Kesselring Site, West Milton, New York.

To comment on the Environmental Impact Statement for DOE Spent Fuel Management and on Environmental Restoration and Waste Management at INEL,

Riding The Rails The Navy's Spent Nuclear Fuel



Map by Steve Nadel,
Groundwork



Turn Off The Waste Machinery

It can be depressing to think about a waste problem so vast that the human race may not have the resources to contain it. One can feel hopeless wondering what technology and what institutions can reasonably be expected to contain the waste for millennia. As a result, most people would rather not think about the problem of nuclear waste.

But we *must* think about it. We must channel our anger and tackle this problem. Pressure from determined activists and concerned citizens have helped bring about most of the disclosures, nuclear site closings, environmental assessments and reports, and other concessions that the government and industry have made.

We must face the following realities, and insist that they be the basis for any discussion of nuclear waste site plans:

- Radioactivity cannot be destroyed.
- There is nowhere to "dispose" of materials that will be hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years; whatever you put in the ground will eventually show up in your water.
- Cleaning up one site by moving radioactive waste to another site only multiplies the number of contaminated

sites and adds the dangers of transport.

• Although trying to contain the waste is our only option, the technology to do so has in large part not been developed or proven.

• Corporate contractors are pocketing the \$5 billion that DOE spends every year on waste management, without doing much to contain the waste.

In the face of these realities, the only sensible thing is to immediately stop producing radioactive waste, cease all related mining, transport, enrichment, weapons design and production, phase out nuclear energy generation, and oppose all other efforts to maintain the nuclear military-industrial cycle.

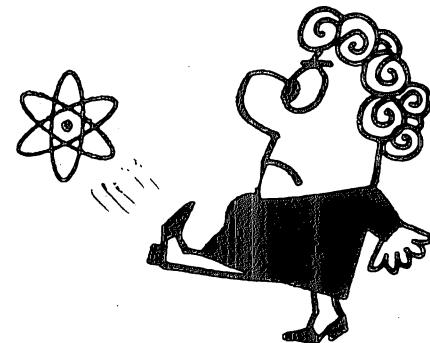
What Can We Do?

We must say "No." No, DOE can't have a new tritium production reactor. No, DOE can't design or produce more nuclear weapons. No, the Navy can't build more nuclear reactors. No, electric utilities can't build any more nuclear power plants. No, USEC and the nuclear industry can't continue promoting nuclear power. No more radioactive waste can be produced.

And we must say "Yes." Yes, we will

pay taxes for a Superfund for Workers who are displaced by the cessation of nuclear production. Yes, we will take the time to comment on Environmental Impact Statements. Yes, we will conserve electricity so that we don't need nuclear power. And yes, we want a new international economic agenda that doesn't need nuclear weapons to protect our lifestyle.

Technology alone will not solve nuclear waste problems. Citizen involvement is needed to assure worker safety and to protect public health and the environment. Working together is our best chance to bring these problems under control.



The Military Production Network

A structure already exists to channel citizen concern about nuclear issues. Over the last decade, many of the local groups that focus on nuclear weapons sites have come together as the Military Production Network. Activists in the MPN meet three times a year to share information and strategize. We urge you to work with an MPN group in your area. Some contacts are listed on the next page. Contact MPN for others.

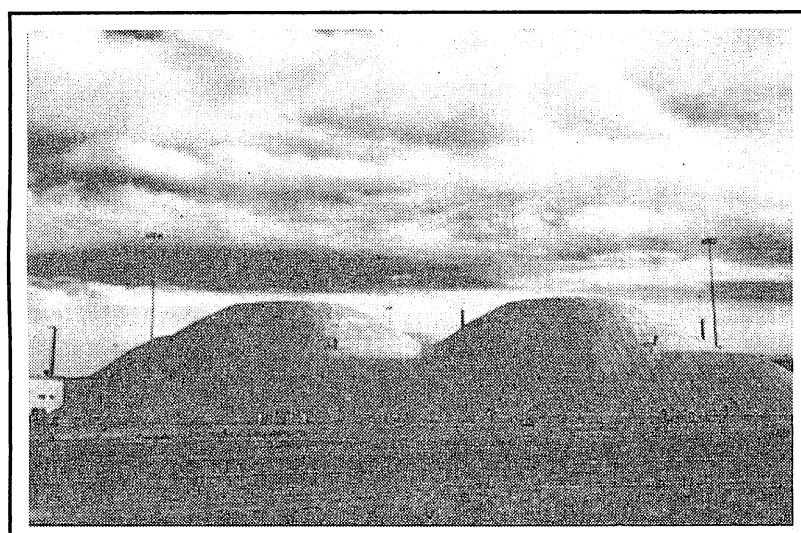
MPN also works with local

groups who oppose sitings of Low Level Radioactive Waste and Monitored Retrievable Storage facilities [see

GroundWork #3]. In 1993 and 1994, these groups collaborated on a grassroots proposal to have Congress ask Clinton to form a Special Commission on Nuclear Waste. The proposal is being considered by members of Congress as *GroundWork* goes to press in late February.

MPN's two publications, *Facing Reality* [see *GroundWork #2*] and *Beyond the Bomb: Dismantling Nuclear Weapons and Disposing of the Radioactive Wastes* can be ordered for \$2 each from Nuclear Safety Campaign, 1914 N. 34th St. #407 Seattle WA 98103.

To contact the Military Production Network, write or call 218 D Street SE, 2nd floor, Washington DC 20003, 202-544-8166.



A vision of the future? The Pantex nuclear weapons assembly/disassembly plant near Amarillo, Texas. DOE photo, borrowed from Beyond the Bomb.

CONTACT GROUPS

In addition to the Military Production Network (see previous page), local groups focused on specific nuclear sites include:

Fernald Feed Materials Production Center

Fernald Residents for Environmental Safety and Health (FRESH)
P.O. Box 129, Ross OH 45061-0129
513-738-8055

Hanford

Hanford Education Action League (HEAL)
West 1408 Broadway, Spokane WA 99201
509-326-3370

INEL

Snake River Alliance
P.O. Box 1731, Boise ID 83701
208-344-9161

Livermore Lab

Tri-Valley CAREs (Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment)
5720 East Avenue #116, Livermore CA 94550
510-443-7148

GroundWork will continue to cover nuclear matters in every issue. Please let us know what is happening in your area. Contact GroundWork, PO Box 14141, San Francisco CA 94114, 415-255-7623.

Navy nuclear waste

Knolls Action Project
33 Central Avenue, Albany NY 12210
518-434-4037

Lynchburg Peace Education Center
P.O. Box 3143 Rivermont Station,
Lynchburg VA 24503
804-847-5477

Nukewatch
P.O. Box 2658, Madison WI 53701
608-767-3023

Nevada Test Site

American Peace Test
Box 26725, Las Vegas, NV 89126
702-386-9834

Oak Ridge

Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance
P.O. Box 1101, Knoxville TN 37901
615-524-4771

Pantex

Save Texas Agriculture and Resources (STAR)
HCR 2 Box 25, Panhandle TX 79068
806-358-2622

Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant

Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security
3706 McDermott Pond Creek,
McDermott OH 45652
614-259-4688

Rocky Flats

Rocky Mountain Peace Center
P.O. Box 1156, Boulder CO 80306
303-444-6981

Savannah River

Energy Research Foundation
537 Harden Street, Columbia SC 29205
803-256-7298

WIPP, Los Alamos Lab

All Peoples Coalition & Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD)
144 Harvard Street, SE, Albuquerque NM 87106
505-266-2663

Yucca Mountain

Citizen Alert
P.O. Box 1681, Las Vegas NV 89125
702-648-8982

Savannah River

continued from page 12

Facility discharges high levels of tritium.

The solid contaminants that are removed from the waste water at the Effluent Treatment Facility are stored until enough have accumulated to create a "saltcrete" pad. The contaminants are mixed with cement and poured into a football field sized pit 25 feet deep. A few saltcrete pads have been poured. The amount of saltcrete that will eventually be created at Savannah River will be equal to double the volume of waste that has accumulated to date in all six of the commercial low level radioactive waste dumps in the U.S.

Savannah River is storing 34 million gallons of high level liquid radioactive waste in 51 million-gallon underground steel tanks. Nine of the tanks are known to leak. DOE has been trying for over ten

years to build a vitrification plant to encapsulate those wastes in glass. It would produce steel-sheathed glass "logs" three meters long and about half a meter in diameter, each containing about half a ton of high-level waste slurry mixed with over one ton of borosilicate glass. Originally scheduled to open in 1989, the vitrification plant is now projected to open in 1995 or '96.

DOE is building a \$135 million incinerator at Savannah River, which they estimate will reduce the volume of waste being burned by about 8 to 1. (Incineration does not destroy radionuclides.) The Energy Research Foundation is opposed to the incinerator because it will disperse radionuclides into the air. Since super-compaction reduces volume by 6 or 7 to 1, they believe DOE should consider using compaction instead. Under the Clinton administration, DOE agreed to re-evaluate

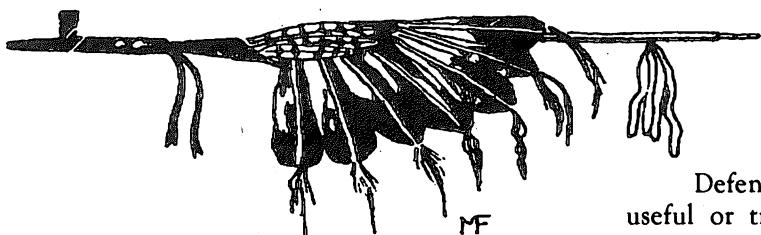
the incinerator. Construction is continuing because it would cost about as much to stop construction as to finish the project.

DOE estimates it will cost \$17.7 billion to decontaminate and dismantle 657 facilities at Savannah River over the next 30 years. In reality, the site will never be clean; the best that can be hoped for is containment and monitoring of the waste.

WIPP

continued from page 13

never expected to store any of the plutonium that was generated before 1970. Since 70% of its capacity is reserved for radioactive waste from the production of nuclear weapons over the next 20 years, critics argue that its primary purpose is to allow weapons production to continue into the 21st century despite the lack of a proper waste disposal methodology.



Quiet Genocide of Indigenous People

Uranium Mining in

by Jennifer Viereck

During World War II, U.S. officials considered poisoning German water supplies with radioactive materials. They are still doing it today in New Mexico, Arizona, and South Dakota. In simple terms, it is genocide. Why has nobody stopped it? Because the victims are mainly brown.

At uranium mining and milling sites, most now abandoned by corporate giants long gone to seek their billions elsewhere, radioactive wastes are left heaped up to spill into waterways or blow in the wind. Some estimates say that 40% of all Dineh (Navajo) people haul water from contaminated streams or wells.

Says Dineh journalist Valerie Taliman: "Thousands of Native people have died or suffered health problems from the mining, milling, enrichment and disposal of uranium for nuclear fuels and weapons." With most uranium operations done under contract to the U.S. Departments of

Defense and Energy, useful or truthful studies, health or cleanup programs have not been forthcoming from the federal government.

It is a bitter irony that lands thought to be arid and worthless enough to leave in Indian hands in the latter 1800's are now found to lie on the rich crust of the Grants Mineral Belt, stretching from Saskatchewan to New Mexico and Arizona. Seventy-five percent of U.S. uranium reserves lie under Native lands, largely held in control

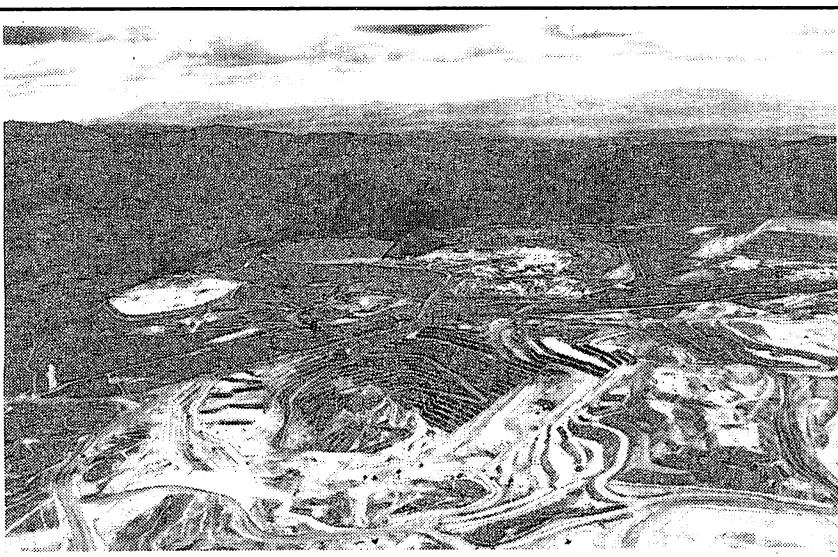
by major oil companies. Twelve oil companies own 54% of the leases. Five oil companies own 62% of the uranium mills. The complex overlappings of federal, state and tribal governments result in an absence of effective oversight and health monitoring systems.

Radioactive Swimming Ponds

Uranium tails, or the "sand" that is left over, retain up to 85% of the radioactivity of the original ore for up to 100,000 years. For each ton of uranium oxide yellowcake produced, up to 40,000 tons of tailings are left behind. A 1978 DOE study found unsafe and dangerous storage conditions at all 22 of the inactive tailings sites in eight western states.

Everywhere people tell stories of children playing in tailings piles or swimming in ponds caught by old mines. In many families, the death rate was higher among children than among the miners themselves.

Not all victims are Indian. In recent years 14,000 tons of tailings washed down the Green River in



Gold mining is also devastating Native American lands. Here, the mining activity at American Barrick Goldstrike mine in northern Nevada shows the environmental destruction gold mining creates. Cyanide used to extract gold also poisons ponds and other water supplies. GroundWork hopes to carry a full report on gold mining in a future issue. For more information, see contact at end of the Uranium Mining article here. Photo c. 1993 by Jon Christenson/Lighthawk.

Resources & Announcements

Detailed information on the ongoing land rights struggle of the traditional Navajo (Dineh) at Big Mountain is available in the Big Mountain News/Joint Use Agreement Update. Send \$1 to PO Box 146, Philo CA 95466.

On Indian Land is published quarterly by Support for Native Sovereignty (SNS). SNS is a Puget Sound, Washington-area group working to support Native American land struggles,

religious rights, political prisoners, and other issues. Subscriptions are \$8 for 4 issues. Articles, artwork, photos, etc are welcome. Write SNS, PO Box 2104, Seattle WA 98111.

Wicozanni Wowapi is the "Good Health Newsletter" of the Native American Community Board Health Education Project of Lake Andes, South Dakota. The fall 1993 issue included a report on the landfill threat

to Lake Andes, and a story on the Native American Women's Reproductive Rights Coalition. Donations of \$5-10 are requested for the newsletter, c/o NACB Health Education Project, PO Box 572, Lake Andes, SD, 57356.

- Encampment protects Yakama land near Lyle, Washington — page 34
- Nuclear Free Zones on Native American land — page 45

the United States

Utah. In Utah and Colorado, tailings were used for landfill.

The most devastating consequences are borne by the southwest, home of the longest continuously occupied communities in North America, but now called a "National Sacrifice Zone;" and by the Black Hills, South Dakota region.

Four Corners Region

As early as 1948, Kerr-McGee, which controls one-third of U.S. uranium leases, had sunk the first mine on Dineh lands near Shiprock, New Mexico. Native miners were given no warnings, no respiratory masks, and they and their families often were given contaminated drinking water. Kerr-McGee pulled out in 1966. Within a few years, twenty-five miners had died of anaplastic cancer of the lungs, and many more were dead or dying from radioactive dust poisoning. The Dineh language has no words for "radiation" or "cancer," and public education is still difficult today. By 1973, uranium mining in the Southwest was affecting Ute, Apache, Hopi, Dineh, O'Otam, Zuni, and Acoma lands. Several years ago, Dineh miners and surviving families began a field survey of abandoned mines. They found 911 mine sites in the Shiprock area alone. At the Kerr-McGee mill in downtown Shiprock, tailings were just dumped in a pile next to the mill, reaching a level of 1.7 million tons on 72 acres by 1974.

In Grants, New Mexico, tailings were used in the construction of Native schools and other buildings, the apparent cause of birth defects in over 100 babies in only five years with rates 2-8 times the national average from 1964-1981.

The Black Hills

In the Black Hills, said by some to contain the richest mineral deposits in the world, five thousand uranium leases to 21 companies have been documented at government offices, covering hundreds of thousands of acres.

A 900,000 ton tailings pile near the Wind River Arapaho reservation is thought to have caused cancer, birth defects and other illnesses in the small town of St. Stephens, Wyoming. In Edgemont, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge reserva-

tion, tailings were used in the school and 200 other sites. One Lakota family found radiation readings in their home to be over four times the highest level permitted for miners, who are

ance of Atomic Veterans, and the National Association of Radiation Survivors, to name just a few, the effects of nuclear testing have become well known. As time elapses since the last U.S. test in 1992, it will be more and more difficult to resume.

Recent revelations by DOE Secretary Hazel O'Leary made national headlines about the atrocities committed by Cold War America on its own citizens. But the voices of the first victims, the uranium miners and their families, remain largely unheard.

Until the entire nuclear cycle is reversed, disarmed, dismantled, cleaned up as much as possible, and until aid is given to the victims to the greatest extent we can, we are still caught dead center in the greatest human error of our time. At this stage, the work has just begun.

Radiation poisoning does not just kill the recipient. It is far more insidious: it alters the genetic structure of unborn generations to come.

The words of Julia Coates, of the Southwestern Research of Information Center apply to all indigenous Americans: "These are a people who traditionally do not take a step on the land without thinking of the impact of their actions on future generations. The reproductive disorders and the impact of cancers and birthrates on children is especially poignant. What has been left for the people to cope with is a radioactive legacy that may endure far beyond the seven generations of the future Navajo."

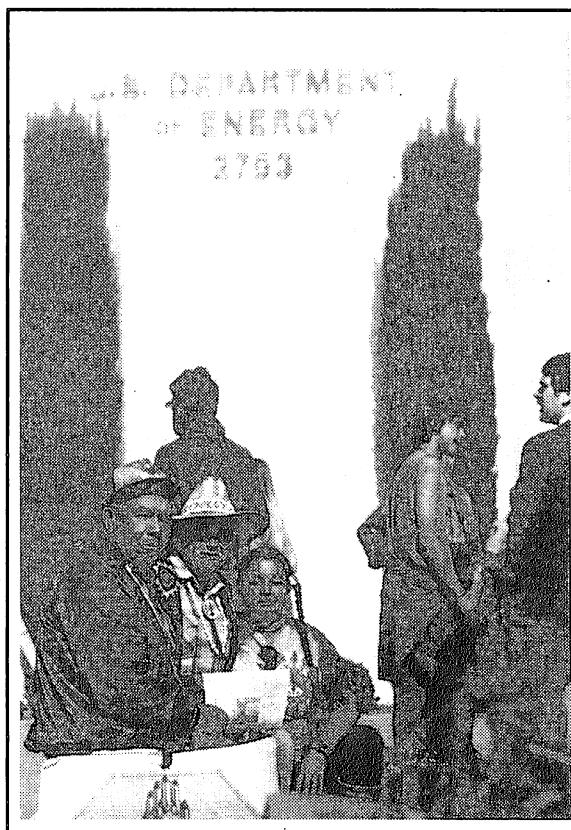
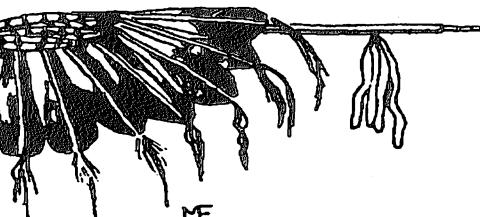
Western Shoshone leaders Corbin Harney, Bill Rosse and Sharman Harney outside the DOE Las Vegas office as part of a 1991 protest. Indigenous peoples and their lands have been heavily affected by nuclear testing and uranium mining. Photo c. 1991 by Steve Brooks.

only exposed eight hours a day. Seven and a half tons of waste still lie outside the Edgemont mine. In 1962, 200 tons of tailings from the Edgemont mill spilled into the Cheyenne River. Recent samples from the Cheyenne River were three times higher than federal safety levels.

According to Anishabe activist and writer Winona LaDuke, a 1979 study of Indian Health Service records from Pine Ridge showed that an astounding 38% of Pine Ridge women miscarried.

What to Do?

Due to the tireless work of numerous groups, such as American Peace Test, Alli-





Activists in Five Cities Rally to Save Ancient Sea Turtles (and the Island) from "Free Trade"

by Mark Heitchue

The ancient sea turtles, born from a time before the age of the dinosaurs, have been swimming through the waters of a changing planet for 150 million years.

Evolved to survive, they have watched the dinosaurs come and go, the continents shift and re-form — but they were not prepared to combat the human greed that fuels their extinction. Sea turtles are species of the open oceans and travel through the sovereign waters of many nations in the course of their migrations. They "belong" to no nation, and require international cooperation if they are to survive.

Outraged over the continued killing of sea turtles in Mexican shrimp nets and the prospect that "free trade" will accelerate the slaughter, activists last fall turned their anger into action. Earth Island's Sea

Turtle Restoration Project, the Earth First! Oceans Task Force, and a coalition of organizations led protesters in five cities around the country to demand that the

Mexican government protect endangered sea turtles that share our common oceans. Activists sent a loud and clear message to the Mexican government with spirited protests at Mexican consulates in Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and Miami.

Speaking to the press at the demonstration in San Francisco, Amy Harris of the Sea Turtle Restoration Project said, "11,000 endangered sea turtles will be caught in Mexican shrimp nets this year alone! If this continues, species like the critically endangered Kemp's Ridley face certain extinction." Recently Mexican trawlers illegally entered the Kemp's Ridley's only nesting preserve and drowned at least 11 of the 400-700 nesting females left on Earth.

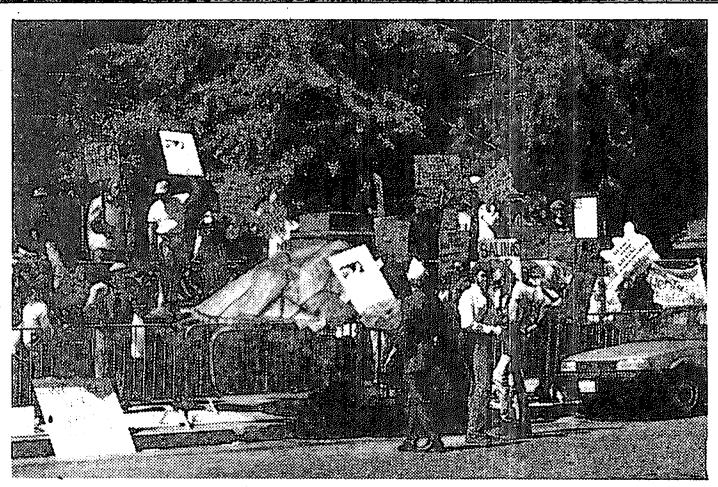
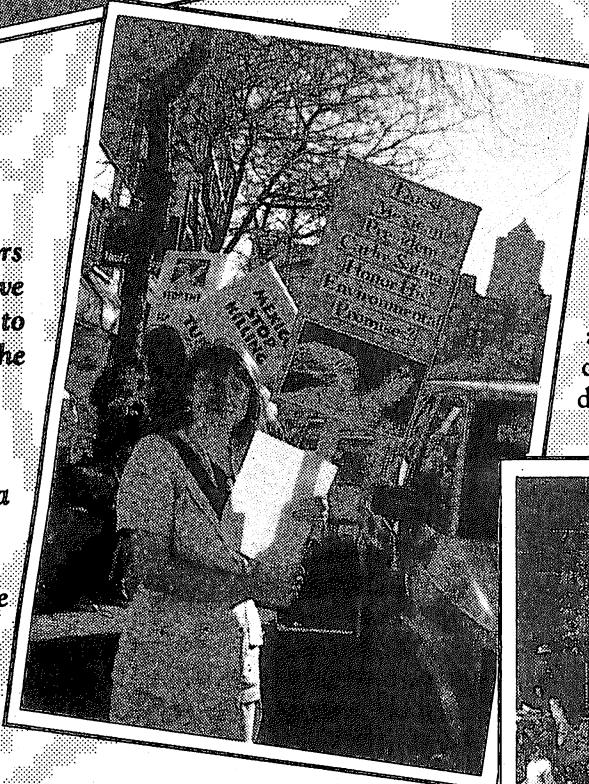
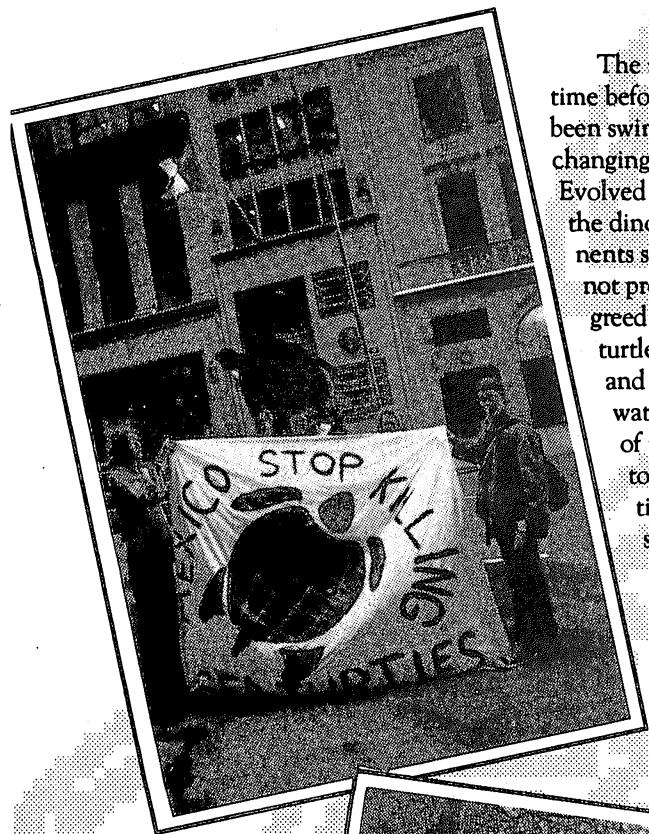
Why? Because \$100,000 Mexican shrimp vessels are not using cheap and effective Turtle Excluder Devices or TEDs, on their shrimp nets. TEDs are proven to release sea turtles without significantly affecting the catch of shrimp. TEDs are required on all U.S. trawlers, and a congressional law exists that would embargo Mexican shrimp from U.S. markets until the senseless killing of endangered sea turtles stops. But U.S. bureaucrats, eager to keep good relations with the Mexican government because of NAFTA, have kept the law from being enforced.

The U.S. market is where Mexico sells the majority of its shrimp. As environmentalists and citizens of the world's

continued on page 50

Demonstrators gathered in five cities last fall to demand that the Mexican government protect endangered sea turtles. Top: New York. Middle: Seattle. Bottom: San Francisco. Demonstrations also took place in Miami and Los Angeles.

Photos courtesy of Earth Island Institute Sea Turtle Restoration Project





“People Are Just Waiting for Me to Die...”

Linda Scally, a former worker at Honeywell Corporation, gave the following testimony at the “Interfaith Hearings on the Impacts of Toxic Poisoning in Communities of Color,” held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in April, 1993. The Hearings were sponsored by SouthWest Organizing Project, and were held before a panel of New Mexico religious leaders.

Hello, my name is Linda Scally. I was born in Las Vegas, New Mexico. I lived all my life in New Mexico. I was employed at Honeywell between 1986 and 1988, at which time I was exposed to many chemicals, but one in particular called trichloromethane. This chemical was not part of the military specs that were used as per contracts and was not supposed to be used. I did use this chemical on hundreds of circuit boards to try to save them because they were scorched from a previous sub-contractor.

After four months of working with this chemical daily, someone higher up found out that I had melanoma cancer, which I had written on my application, and removed me from the job of washing these boards. I went back on the assembly line and soon got promoted to Material Dispatcher.

About a year passed, when I was approached by two men in suits. One was counsel for Honeywell, the other was a lawyer from Washington. They told me I might be subpoenaed. I was stressed out about this, and I was also told not to tell anyone, not even my supervisor. I couldn't figure out what I had done wrong. Finally after about two and half weeks, I was approached by the Honeywell counsel guy and had a meeting with him and three lawyers from Washington about this chemical trichloromethane. I was told that I would be getting a lawyer soon that would be appointed by Honeywell to defend me because the FBI and Attorney General would be asking me questions.

I waited about two more weeks and finally a man got in touch with me. He told me that the government was worried about fighter airplanes falling out of the sky. That's what this whole thing was all

about.

So I asked him about me and my health. But that wasn't the issue concerning Honeywell. Cover up was the issue!

I refused to cover up anything for



Linda Scally (left) with Dr. Jane Howard of the United Methodist Women's Division.
Photo c. 1993 by Jim Burbank.

them, and sought out my own, lawyer, Josephine Rohr.

I have battled a long and sometimes it seems never-ending battle with them, Honeywell. The story is too long to tell in five minutes but at least I'm still here to tell it. I have been battling terminal metastatic internal melanoma now for going on four years. Many people have been waiting on me to die for years now. But my destiny on this earth is not over yet. I must seek justice for all who like me have been done wrong in the name of money and power. How many more must suffer and die due to our trustworthy employers? No job is worth dying for, no money in the world is worth the loss of a loved one. No one has the right to use the underprivileged to gain wealth and recognition.

What needs to be recognized is that New Mexico is sick and tired of being dumped on by profit seekers. Don't get me wrong. I don't hate Honeywell for what it has done. But I do blame them for gross

incompetence in the handling of hazardous chemicals, and endangering human lives and destroying our beloved mother earth.

And now we have a very large corporation [Intel — information available from *Voces Unidas* — see below] coming to our state. My question to them will be, “What will you do with and where will you dump your waste?”

I pray that our voices will ring across our land and help people to recognize that there is a very deep-set problem in our society. And the government allows it by covering it up. Let's take the covers off and expose those people who would harm us for personal gain.

Honeywell could never pay me back what I am due — respect and honor! But there is life after Honeywell for me. I will not let them stop me from pressing forward. I believe as one eastern philosopher said:

“I will light the match of smiles. My gloom veil will disappear.... I am the irresistible fire of smiles... Thank you God for the human race.”

And one last thing. Ask your employers questions. Ask for proof if in doubt. Save your own life. Ask Questions.

From *Voces Unidas* — see below. Edited by *GroundWork*.



Voces Unidas is published by the SouthWest Organizing Project, a multi-racial, multi-issue community-based organization working “to empower the disenfranchised in the Southwest to realize racial and gender equality, and social and economic justice.”

Voces Unidas carries news and photos from such projects as Child & Youth Development Resources, Southwest Network for Environmental & Economic Justice, toxic waste organizing, Native American issues, and more.

You can receive *Voces Unidas* for \$10 per year. Additional donations help sustain the publication. Contact SWOP, 211 10th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102, 505-247-9972.



Political Funerals Protest AIDS, Homelessness

Washington DC, New York City ACT UP Groups

by Bill Weinberg

On the afternoon of January 5, mere days after Mayor Rudolph Giuliani took office, some 200 local activists and friends streamed out of the Lower East Side's St. Brigid's Church across the street from Tompkins Square Park. A service had just been held in remembrance of Terry Taylor, a veteran of the 1989 New York-to-Washington homeless march and a key figure in the 1989-91 Tent City homeless occupation of Tompkins Square. Taylor had died of AIDS on December 12 at the

The rest of the crowd continued to City Hall, where more were arrested while attempting to symbolically clean windshields. A few days later, the protestors were lambasted on national radio by Rush Limbaugh, who called them "the kooks from Tompkins Square."

Giuliani was elected on a campaign which openly demonized the homeless, promising expanded police pressure on street peddlers and panhandlers as well as new police "anti-drug" and riot control programs. Further cutbacks in the city's hospital budget and public health services

specifically requested that their last rites be public and angry. And while Terry Taylor had been African American and homeless, many of those who have been eulogized in public marches and gatherings had been white members of the city's gay community.

On July 16, 1993, over 100 attended the funeral of John Greenberg, a local AIDS activist and public school teacher, in the main circle of Tompkins Square. Greenberg had founded TAP, Treatment Alternatives Project, to explore AIDS treatments which the federal government and pharmaceutical companies have deemed unworthy of funding.

On July 1, 1993, in Washington DC, ACT UP (the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power) attempted to carry the coffin containing the body of AIDS activist and fashion designer Tim Bailey to the White House, but were confronted by police as they removed the coffin from a van at a parking lot near Capitol Building. After a four-hour stand-off, a brief tug-of-war over the coffin ensued. Two pall-bearers, including Bailey's brother, were arrested.

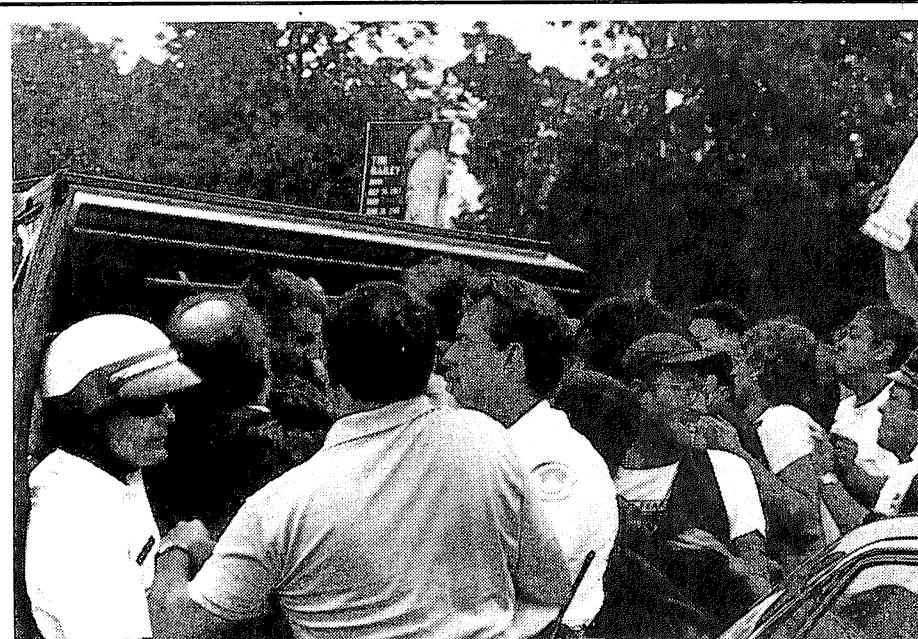
On November 2, 1992, the eve of the presidential election, a procession of 300 carried the open coffin of AIDS activist Mark Lowe Fisher from Judson Memorial Church, near Greenwich Village's Washington Square, to Bush-Quayle-headquarters near Times Square. Over Columbus Day weekend in Washington DC that year, 2,000 marched from Capitol Hill to the White House behind 15 cannisters containing the ashes of cremated AIDS victims. The ashes were thrown onto the White House lawn.

ACT UP, the Coalition for the Homeless, and a new group called Out of the Shelters-Into the Streets, are planning a massive demonstration against Giuliani's policies. A date will be set at a February meeting at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine on the Upper West Side. For more information, call Rich at 212-242-6726.

were also announced.

The statement released by the friends and survivors of Taylor who organized the event, calling themselves the Squeegee Coalition, said, "Giuliani has no housing policy for this city. His housing policy for the homeless is coffins and jails." It also pointed out that between 30 and 40 percent of New York City's homeless people are HIV-positive or have AIDS, and demanded a halt to park curfews and police sweeps of the homeless.

Such insensitivity to New York City's crises of health care and housing has sparked a wave of such political funerals. In many cases, deceased activists had



ACT UP, police face off at Tim Bailey's funeral in Washington. Photo c. 1993 John Penley.

age of 37. Among those attending the service were peacenik priest Daniel Berrigan and former Black Panther and political prisoner Dorhuba bin Wahad.

Leaving the church with a mock coffin, the crowd began marching through the street downtown towards City Hall. But within a block, they were barred by a phalanx of police backed up with vans. When the marchers refused to immediately clear the street, five were arrested, chanting "No Squeegee, No Peace!", a reference to Mayor Giuliani's campaign pledge to crack down on the so-called "squeegee people"—homeless folks who clean windshields at stoplights.

Involved in political theatre?
GroundWork wants to know —
Call 415-255-7623!

Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Activists Say:



Lift the Ban — then Ban Militarism

by Dennis McMillan

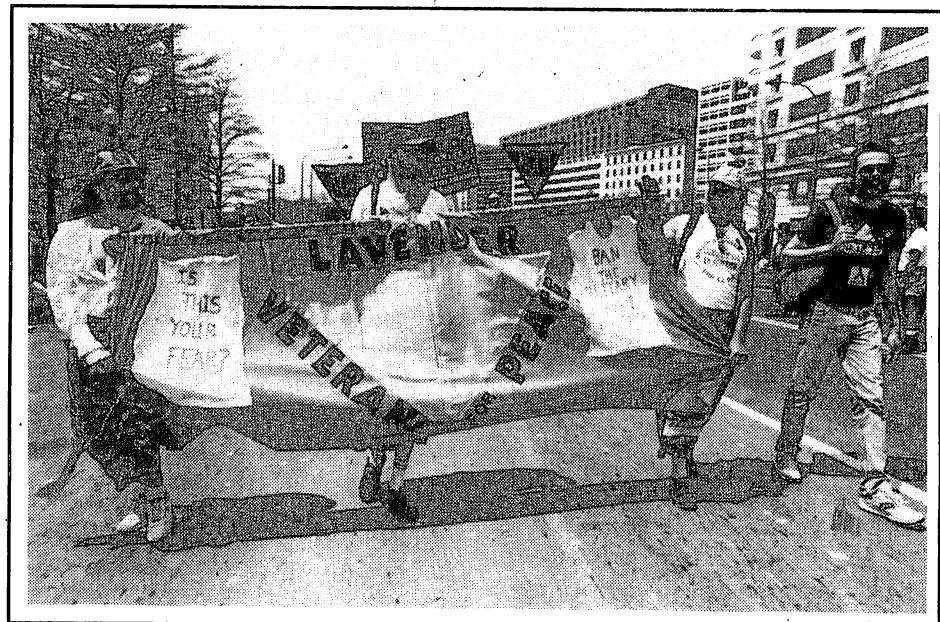
100 mostly queer pacifists marched to the Federal Building in San Francisco chanting, "Break the silence, End men's violence" and "No more ban, No more war, What the hell are we fighting for?!"

The marchers were led by a huge banner reading: "Extend the Ban to Heterosexuals." People carried homemade signs reading, "Lift the Ban and Ban the Bomb," and "Cruise Queers, Not Missiles." But the most colorful was the lavender banner of Lesbians & Gays Against Intervention (LAGAI), "We Like Our Queers Out of Uniform," with an illustration of nude lesbigays wearing nothing but army and navy hats.

Atypical of a Lift the Ban rally, the demo opened with folk protest songs. Jon Cohen of the National Organization of Men Against Sexism (NOMAS) summed up the rally's message: "For twelve years we have opposed discrimination and violence, and as such we oppose both the ban specifically and the military in general." He called the ban a civil rights issue, an act of discrimination, harassment and in some cases violence against lesbians, gays and bisexuals in the armed forces.

Victor Lewis of the Oakland Men's Project concurred, adding that the military reinforces heterosexism, racism, and male supremacy. He said that we as gaysbians should not try to force our way into an institution that wants to eliminate us.

Daniel Ward, a member of LAGAI



Lavender Veterans for Peace march at the 300,000-strong San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Freedom Day Parade, 1993. Another sign read, "Increase the Peace. Ban Straights and Queers from the Military!" Photo c. 1993 by Jane Cleland.

and a Navy veteran discharged for homosexual acts, said that he feels it was for the best that he was kicked out of the armed forces. "When you're gay, you shouldn't have to put up with the trauma, humiliation and degradation that the military has specialized in."

Openly lesbian San Francisco school board member Angie Fa took the military to task for taking away necessary funding from schools and health care facilities. "Do we really believe we are going to gain first class citizenship by serving in the

military? Do we really think we are going to get our basic civil rights?"

Lynne Benatovich of the Women's Action Committee spoke of the contradiction of a government that teaches it is mandatory to kill your enemy but illegal to love your same-sex partner.

The rally closed with a speech by Qawwam Ullah-Turner, a heterosexual who joined first a street gang and then the marines to prove his masculinity and finally became a conscientious objector during the Gulf War. Describing the ban lifting, he said, "To me, it's like a black man trying to get into the Ku Klux Klan. Yes, it's a violation of civil rights, but why would anyone want to be in the military — an organization run by egotistical, imperialistic, childish, white, Anglo-Saxon Protestant straight men?"

This article originally appeared in The Sentinel, 285 Shipley, San Francisco CA 94107, 415-281-3745.

For more information on banning militarism, contact LAGAI, 3543 18th St. #26, San Francisco CA 94110, or the Coordinating Committee for Conscientious Objectors, 655 Sutter #514, San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-474-3002.

Commemorations of 25th

The 1969 Stonewall rebellion was a community response to longtime police harassment of gays and lesbians in New York. A police raid on the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village sparked 3 days and nights of street rebellion. For the first time the chant "Gay Power" rang out.

Stonewall helped launch the modern gay/lesbian/bisexual rights movement. Many cities will hold commemorations this June. Two of the largest will be in New York and in San Francisco.

New York City activists are

Anniversary of Stonewall

organizing a march on the United Nations for Sunday, June 26. The march will proceed to Central Park for a rally. March groups should pre-register. For more information, call 212-626-6925.

San Francisco will move its huge annual Gay/lesbian/bisexual Pride Day parade, usually held on the last Sunday in June (marking the Stonewall anniversary), to a week earlier, on June 19th, to allow participants to travel to New York for the anniversary. For more information, call 415-241-1514.



Pure Food Campaign Launches Boycott to Ban BGH and "Frankenfoods"

BGH: A Disaster for Humans and Cows

According to BGH Boycott director Ronnie Cummins: "rBGH is a disaster for the cows, human health, the environment, and small dairy farmers." The drug, he emphasizes, bad enough in itself, also paves the way for several hundred more biotech Frankenfoods which are waiting in the wings for FDA approval. In layperson's terms, rBGH is like 'crack' for cows, causing, among other serious health problems, cows' udders to become infected and pus-filled.

"Regular injections of BGH certainly force Bossie to produce 25% more milk, but BGH also makes her sick and pollutes her milk. If farmers, consumers, and students don't work together, demanding that BGH-free products be certified and clearly-labeled, milk-drinkers can look forward to pus, antibiotics, and synthetic hormones sliding down their throats, higher in lactose, lower in protein, and completely untested for long-term human health effects," Cummins maintains.

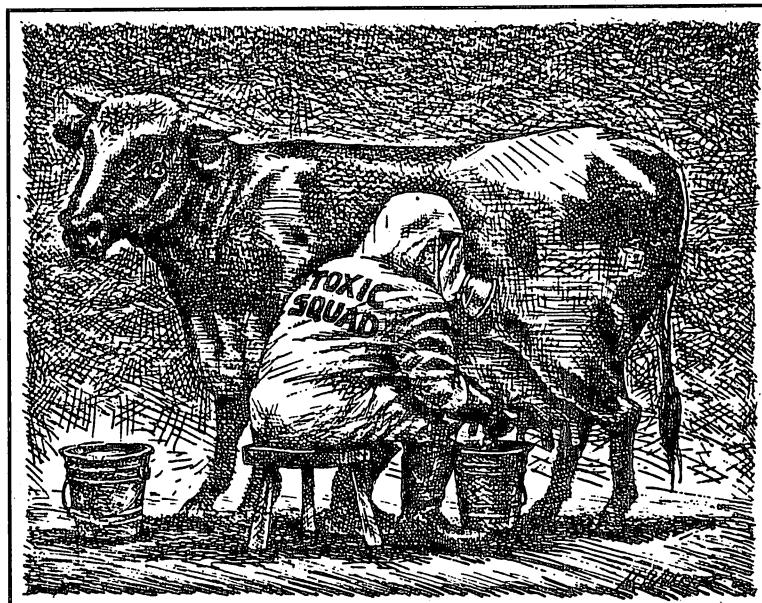
"Moreover, if rBGH goes forward, the current market surplus of milk and dairy products will increase, driving down milk prices and allowing the milk cartels and giant dairy processors to put 25-33% of dairy farmers out of business. With NAFTA in place, rBGH will help agribusiness multinationals achieve one of their strategic long-range objectives — shifting milk and dairy production from the U.S. and Canada to south of the Rio Grande, where field workers and dairy hands make less than \$1 per hour," Cummins concludes.

Caving in to intense pressure from Monsanto and other chem-ag and biotech companies, the Clinton administration has approved the commercial use and sale of foods derived from genetically engineered Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH).

Beginning in February 1994, the public will become the unsuspecting guinea pigs for milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream, beef and infant formula laced with genetically-altered hormones.

Equally disturbing, according to the Consumers Union, the Union of Concerned Scientists, the National Farmers Union, the Humane Society of the United States, and the Biotechnology working Group, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will not require that rBGH-tainted foods be labeled. Farmers and dairies opposed to rBGH will be permitted to voluntarily certify and label their products as being rBGH-free.

The FDA approval of rBGH comes on the heels of an eight-year international grassroots campaign to ban BGH, spearheaded by Jeremy Rifkin's Foundation on



Economic Trends (FET). BGH is banned in Europe — at least until the year 2000.

Milk Dumpings

In response to rBGH approval, the Pure Food Campaign has staged protests and symbolic consumer, farmer and chef "milk dumpings" at supermarkets and corporate headquarters in over two dozen cities across the U.S. A typical protest in front of a Jewel supermarket in Chicago last November, featured on the NBC national news, showed protesters handing out "consumer warning" leaflets to customers, and then dumping gallons of milk onto the sidewalk and the street.

Another dump, staged the following week by several dozen activists, took place in front of the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, where 1500 dairy executives were gathered at the National Milk Producers Federation convention.

Student Efforts

Beginning February 3, 1994, the Pure Food coalition will be organizing leafleting teams, direct action, and media campaigns in over 800 communities in the U.S. and Canada, including a student-led effort at high schools and colleges called Appetite for Change. Appetite for Change seeks not only to ban BGH and other Frankenfoods from schools and colleges, but also to

BioTech Resources

Biotechnology: An Activists' Handbook, published by the Vermont Biotechnology Working Group, is an excellent introduction to genetic engineering. Articles on Food & Agriculture, Environmental Impacts, Medicine & Human Genetics, and Opposition to Genetic Engineering are accompanied by a bibliography and Resources for Organizing & Action. The 48-page handbook is available for \$2 from Rural Vermont, 15 Barre St., Montpelier VT 05602.

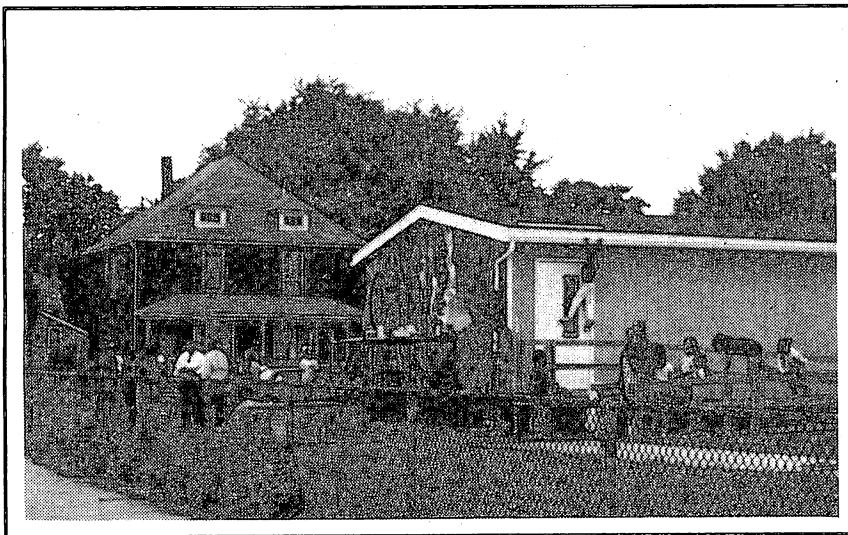
Safe Food News offers information on threats to the food supply and the environment, interviews with activists, and resources for local organizing. Write Food & Water, Depot Hill Rd, RR 1, Box 114, Marshfield VT 05658.

continued on page 51

Youth Reclaim City in Third Annual Detroit Summer



Brian Chambers



April 1994 Healing Global Wounds Gathering Planned at Nevada Test Site

April 1-3, activists will gather in Cactus Springs, Nevada, near the Test Site, for an event called "Healing Global Wounds 1994: One Water, One Air, One Earth."

The event, initiated by Western Shoshone spiritual leader Corbin Harney and co-sponsored by the Western Shoshone National Council, the Alliance of Atomic Veterans, American Peace Test, Citizen Alert's Native American Program, and Nuremburg Actions, aims to hold Presi-

dent Clinton to his campaign promise of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by 1996.

An educational program is planned for April 2, including a half-day workshop on Alliance Building facilitated by Margo Adair. Other workshops will focus on the environment and sovereignty issues.

For information: Box 599, Indian Springs NV 89018, 702-879-3222.

[See pages 11 and 48 for more Nevada Test Site news.]

Japanese Americans Plan Gathering at Former Concentration Camp

Tule Lake in Northern California

Japanese Americans will be going to Tule Lake in Northern California August 26-28, 1994. Tule Lake was a concentration camp for Japanese American resisters from 1943-46. More than 80% of the inmates renounced their citizenship and asked to be sent to Japan.

We will visit the camp and the jail (pictured here), participate in several talks, story sessions, a cultural program and a memorial service. We will focus on education and healing.

For more information, contact Jiro Yamamoto, 415-863-8141.

Detroit Prepares for Third Detroit Summer

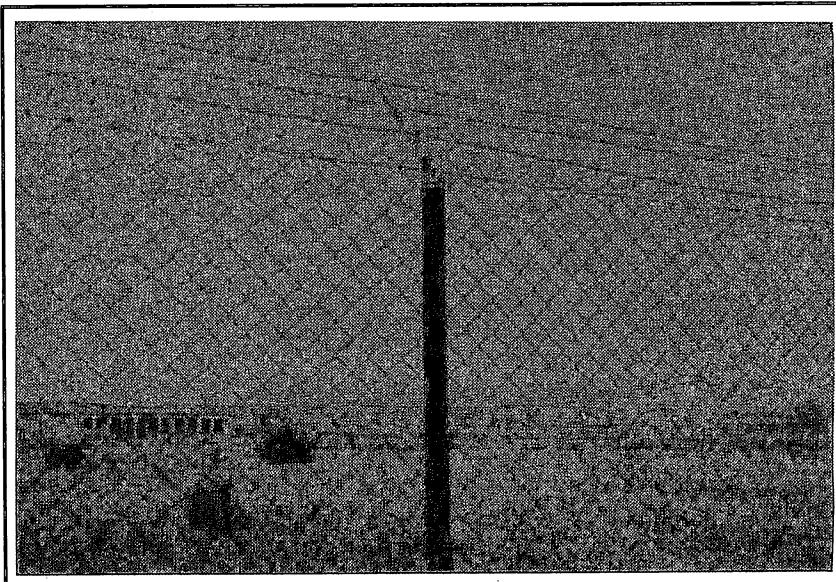
Nowhere has the urban crisis hit harder than Detroit. Once a center for the auto industry and a mecca for millions from the countryside, Detroit today is a symbol of urban decline and drug-related violence.

But a new spirit is rising in Detroit. The challenge today is the rebuilding of our cities as places of productivity and community, where people live in harmony with each other and the Earth.

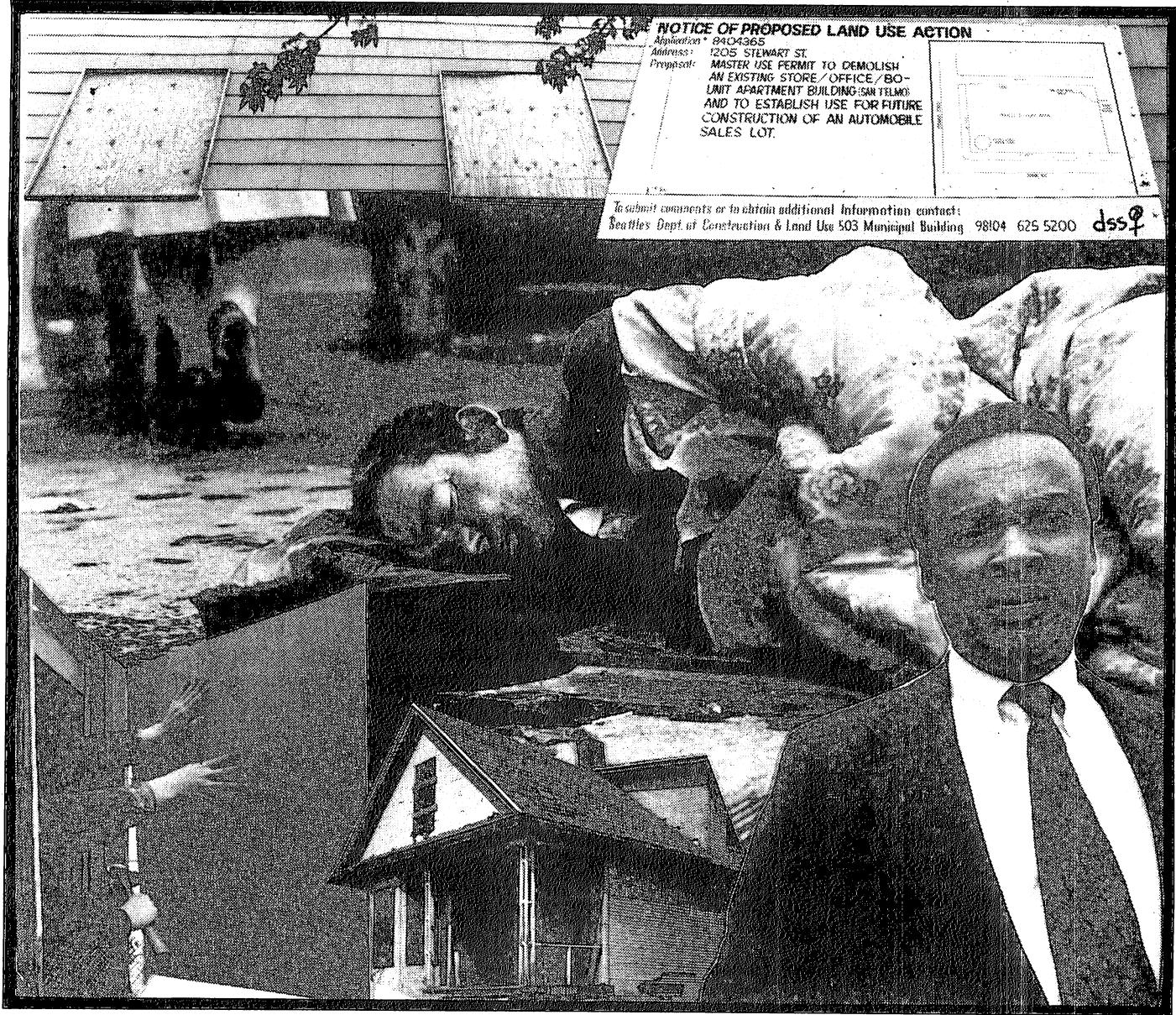
Detroit Summer, now in its third year, is a multicultural, intergenerational youth project to rebuild, redefine and respirit Detroit from the ground up. Young people directly participate with community organizations involved in neighborhood-based work.

The first two Detroit Summers have included projects such as renovating houses, cleaning up vacant lots and building mini-parks, and painting murals (such as the one pictured above). Participants have also marched against violence and in commemoration of the hundreds of young people who have been killed in Detroit in recent years.

Detroit Summer 1994 invites youth volunteers from around the country and world to join Detroit residents from June 22-July 17. For more information, call 313-832-2904.



A jail within a jail at Tule Lake Concentration Camp. Photo c. 1994 Jiro Yamamoto.



low-income housing Crisis

A crisis in availability and affordability of low-income housing has hit every part of the country in the past decade. In the wake of the vast military spending and tax cuts for the wealthy during the Reagan-Bush years, social services and low-income housing subsidies have been systematically slashed.

As a result, virtually every large American city is now home to hundreds or thousands of people who have no reliable housing, no steady access to healthy food, to medicine or health care, or to resources to change the downward spiral of their lives.

Various groups and projects have sprung up in recent years to address these problems. Faith-based activists have organized shelters and food programs. Peoples health clinics have blossomed in places as disparate as San Francisco and rural North Carolina. Some Food Not Bombs groups [see opposite page] have

made their food programs a special form of direct action, serving free meals in highly visible locations to spotlight local governments' indifference to the poor.

Activists in a number of cities have also organized take-overs of vacant housing. The photos above are from Seattle, where there have been occupations for several years. In recent issues GroundWork has also carried photos and stories from Washington DC, Portland, and San Francisco. We have heard of similar organizing in New York, Boston, Kansas City, and Baltimore.

GroundWork welcomes photos and accounts of housing and other types of direct action. For more information, or for contact numbers, call GroundWork, 415-255-7623.

*Collage c. 1993 by Dana Schuerholz, Seattle. Figure
 in lower right is Seattle Mayor Norm Rice.*

Hundreds Arrested as Anti-Homeless Mayor Targets San Francisco Food Not Bombs

While most Food Not Bombs groups around the country serve meals free of police harrassment, San Francisco FNB has been the target of a long-term campaign by two successive mayors aimed at driving the group out of the highly visible civic center and Haight-Ashbury Panhandle locations which have been the group's noon meal sites for almost a decade.

Former Mayor Art Agnos, an alleged liberal, had hundreds of FNbers arrested for serving food without a permit during his four year term.

Current mayor Frank Jordan, a conservative former police chief, did not immediately renew the attack. But after his administration floundered for two years, he saw his only hope for re-election to be a massive assault on San Francisco's huge homeless population. Jordan's Matrix program was launched in the summer of 1993, with the goal of driving the street population out of areas of the city that tourists and wealthy shoppers frequent.

As of February 1994 there have been several thousand Matrix arrests, although few have resulted in convictions or even

trials. The Matrix laws are probably unconstitutional, and are obviously designed more to give the police a tool of harrassment than to obtain convictions in court.

Food Not Bombs has been especially targeted. Over 130 FNbers were busted in the first month of Matrix, and many more have been arrested since. So far one person has been convicted of serving free food, and faces sentencing by a vindictive judge.

Undaunted, SF-FNB continues to serve noon meals directly in front of city hall, risking arrest daily. Other groups and many individuals have joined in supporting FNB's struggle against Matrix.

For more info on SF-FNB, call 415-330-5030.



Ever-vigilant San Francisco cops bust the stew at a Food Not Bombs civic center meal. Hundreds of food-servers have been arrested as well. Photo courtesy of FNB.



FNB-Long Beach Organizes Solidarity Protest

On November 24, Long Beach FNB organized a solidarity rally and served free food in front of the City Courthouse, in support of our friends in San Francisco FNB who were being arrested for sharing free food in public with anyone who is hungry.

We were there, together with several other groups, the poor, and homeless people, to protest the arrests and the unreasonable charge of felony conspiracy against activists in San Francisco, as well as showing support for others who have been falsely arrested or harrassed, and the thousands of homeless people all over this country who are being violently pushed out of their communities.

The day of our solidarity protest, we were threatened with arrests but none of us were taken in. We handed out flyers that explained what San Francisco's Matrix program is all about, and that we must put an end to such crackdowns on homeless people.

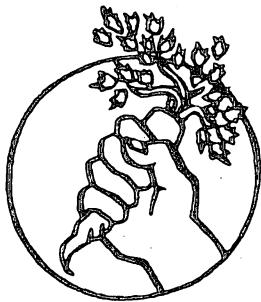
Long Beach FNB is going on its fourth year of operation. We feed people regularly on Sundays at 1pm at Lincoln Park in downtown Long Beach. We also sometimes serve at benefit shows and demonstrations, and we table at many events.

Write us at PO Box 4456, Huntington Beach CA 92605.

by Camille

FNB News

Food Not Bombs in Washington DC is now serving regular meals twice a week in Lafayette Park, across the street from Hillary & Bill's place. Volunteers



meet to cook at 10am on Wednesday and Sunday, and serve a free meal in the Park at 1pm each day. From five to 25 people have been involved. For more info call 202-232-0935.

Soupstock, an afternoon of free music and free food with San Francisco FNB, will be held Saturday, April 30, 1994 at High Noon at the bandshell/music concourse at Golden Gate Park. Arts & Crafts, Live Music, puppets, children's area, and of course free vegetarian food for all. For more info, call 415-330-5030.

East Bay (Berkeley/Oakland) FNB continues to serve free vegetarian meals at Peoples Park in Berkeley weekday afternoons. Members have been active in recent months in opposing anti-homeless legislation in Berkeley. EB-FNB will be serving a meal at the 25th Anniversary of Peoples Park on May 1st. For more info, call 510-644-4187.

GroundWork covers Food Not Bombs in every issue. Please send us FNB news & photos from your city!



Ohio Greens Build Anti-Nuclear Network

by David Ellison
Northeast Ohio Greens

Plutonium injections... North Korean nuclear weapons... radioactive waste piling up in our backyards... "spent" fuel stored over nearly every body of potable water in the country... something has got to give...

For years the anti-nuclear movement has been saying that radiation is a big problem. 49 years after Hiroshima, 15 years after Three Mile Island, we may finally be getting through. Nuclear waste and pollution issues have been heating up all over the country and around the world.

In the past several years Greens locals in Ohio have been active in several different aspects of anti-nuclear organizing. We've helped ban the sale of irradiated food in Cleveland, participated in NRC scoping meetings, protested a plan to store high level radioactive waste in "dry casks" in the middle of a wetland near Lake Erie, and resisted the siting of a regional low-level radioactive waste (LLRW) dump planned for Ohio.

By participating in the struggle to prevent the regional LLRW dump from being sited, Ohio Greens have been able to build local and statewide networks with other anti-nuclear activists and organizations. This is essential for addressing local nuclear issues such as sewage treatment plants contaminated with cobalt; industrial sites with radioactive slag piles; and the radioactive pollution in communities surrounding Ohio's nuclear weapons facilities at Piketon (Portsmouth), Fernald, Mound and Ashtabula [see *GroundWork* map, page 16].

The Greens' commitment to egalitarian process and inclusion has facilitated this network within Ohio. Many new members and a new level of respect are the direct result of this work. It has provided specific issues around which to organize public (and membership) involvement in the political process.

Greens in Wisconsin active in mining issues at Mining Conference, Mole Lake Chippewa Reservation — see page 44

Green Nuclear Network

We took the first steps toward forming a Green nuclear resource network or working group at the August 1993 Syracuse national gathering. So far, contacts have been made with people who are working on shutting down power reactors; monitoring waste piles, mine and mill tailings; fighting waste dumps; and addressing the problems of radioactive contamination of their communities. Networking and maybe a workshop will take place at the 1994 gathering in Boise [see page 33].

Greens will also be attending the Three Mile Island 15th Anniversary conference at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania around March 25th. [For more information on TMI, call 717-233-7897.]

Everyone Welcome

You don't have to be a Green to get involved in the Greens' nuclear resource network. There's no obligation except to be willing to network.

For more information, contact David Ellison, Northeast Ohio Greens, 2871 Hampton Rd. #11, Cleveland, OH 44114, 216-283-6420.

Buffalo Greens Do BANG-Up Job Fighting West Valley LLRW Dump

by Daryl Anderson
Buffalo Greens

On November 6th, 1993, after five weeks of planning, members of the newly-formed Buffalo Anti-Nuclear Group (BANG) proceeded from a successful rally in the Springville area to an overnight encampment at the state-owned West Valley project land in Erie County, proposed site of a "low-level" radioactive waste (LLRW) dump [see *GroundWork* #2].

A dozen campers, including members of the Buffalo greens and activists from the Allegany County dump opposition, placed the land in "protective custody" while another half-dozen support people kept an overnight watch for interference from pro-dump locals or public authorities. Police did stop by, but decided not to disturb the encampment if it was for one night only.

As planned, the campers hiked out the next morning, leaving behind a number of "Posted: No Dumping" signs.

This action opened new paths of resistance to the proposed dump siting at West Valley. The rally drew about 75 people

from around the region. Speakers ranged from members of the Seneca Nation to the Buffalo Common Council.

Civil Disobedience Pledge

A central focus was the announcement of a "Nuclear Pledge of Resistance."

Activists will pledge to engage in or support nonviolent direct action if West Valley or any other community in Western New York is selected for a nuclear waste dump. Activists have stymied dump proposals so far, but the final, hardest act is still coming up.

Buffalo Greens plan to sell non-radioactive smoke detectors (almost all commercial detectors use radioactive Am-241) to raise funds for a BANG arrest/bail fund.

These can be ordered for \$33 ppd from the address below.

Now is the time to get involved. We are active. We are energized. But we are not as many as we appear to be. We need you!

Contact the Buffalo Anti-Nuclear Group c/o Buffalo Greens, PO Box 729, Washington Station, Buffalo NY 14205, 716-845-6993.

graphic by Osha Neumann



Greens Active Around Country



Delta Greens of New Orleans Involve Local Kids in Building a Community Garden

Delta Greens spent the fall moving earth and babysitting local kids as they constructed Greenville Community Garden, transforming an empty lot in Carrollton's Black Pearl neighborhood into a showcase for green, urban renewal and appropriate technology ideals.

Local children, often unattended while parents worked, joined in removing dirt from the well-hole and using it to build raised beds for the garden. The well, operated by a hand-pump, was dug both to save the expense of city

water and to demonstrate low-tech, low-budget technology. Research showed that hand-dug wells were completely legal, and water was hit on the first day, at ten feet.

The project has created a community garden, and also affected participants' sense of their place in the community. One Green wrote: "We have experienced a noteworthy change in relations within the neighborhood. At this point we know most of the kids by name, and they know



Richard McCarthy looks up from the ten foot hand-dug well-hole. Photo c. 1993 by Camille Martin.

ours. This has helped to dampen feelings of bitterness and fear, which otherwise mark this and many other neighborhoods."

Further dreams are to establish a farmers market at the site, where neighbors could also sell cakes, pralines, etc, and start to build a local trading economy.

Excerpted from the Delta Greens Quarterly, 7725 Cohn Street, New Orleans LA 70118, 504-861-8832.

Green Resource Network & Directory

The Green Resource Network is coordinating a nationwide Directory of Green activists with expertise in different skills and issues. The Directory celebrates the work being done by Green activists across the country.

Entries include: facilitation training; low-income and rural organizing; energy issues; women's issues; electoral reform; computer communications; local

currencies; organizing a political campaign; earth-based spirituality; and many more.

Each entry gives an activist's name and contact number, plus a few lines explaining their experience with this issue or skill. Over fifty entries are already available, and the Directory is growing steadily.

Greens and other people interested in being listed in the Directory can call Cris Moore of the New Mexico Green Party, 505-986-2071.

For a copy of the Directory, send \$1 (free to active Greens) to the Greens Clearinghouse, PO Box 30208 Kansas City MO 64112, 800-257-7336.



New Mexico Greens challenged Congressman Bill Richardson to debates on NAFTA in four cities: Rio Rancho, Taos, Los Alamos and Santa Fe. Greens built anti-NAFTA alliances with groups such as SouthWest Organizing Project (SWOP), several local unions, and supporters of Ross Perot. [from Jersey Greens Journal, PO Box 2029, Princeton NJ 08543]

Philadelphia Greens have been working in coalition with the Sierra Club, SW Enlisted Against Toxics, and other community and environmental groups to stop shipments of partially-spent nuclear reactor fuel rods en route from the Shoreham Plant on Long Island (which has been closed) to Philadelphia Electric Company's facility at Limerick. These shipments, along a route through southwest Philadelphia, Center City and up along the Schuylkill River, could set a dangerous precedent for the handling of highly radioactive spent fuel.

Philadelphia Greens have also been part of a statewide network opposing Chem Nuclear's plan to site a low level radioactive waste dump in Pennsylvania.

On a positive note, the construction of the Peace Factory proceeded on schedule through the summer. Volunteers from groups as diverse as the West Philadelphia Anarchists and the Mennonites, as well as several teams of international volunteers, helped with cleaning, painting, roofing and more. The Greens are planning to share an office in the Peace Factory on completion, and have been helping with the fix-up work. [from Jersey Greens Journal — see above]

The Albuquerque Regional Greens have published a pamphlet called "Money: Who has it? How did they get it? What are they doing with it?"

Excerpted from a larger work in progress, this 36-page pamphlet addresses such issues as "Why must the economy grow," "the national debt," and "employment, the environment and capitalism."

Available from Albuquerque Regional Greens, 915 Washington SE, Albuquerque NM 87108.



Green Direct Action Networks

Are You or Your Group Interested in Joining The Greens?

The Greens are a network of local organizing groups across the country and around the world.

Greens in the U.S. have adopted ten key values, including nonviolence, grassroots democracy, and social justice.

If your group is interested in affiliating, contact the Clearinghouse. Active members of affiliated groups receive *Green Politics and Regeneration*, the national publications of The Greens.

The Greens Clearinghouse, located near the geographical center of the United States in Kansas City, performs a vital function for Green activity and the exchange of Green information. You can help with their work by joining or donating to The Greens.

For more information about Green activity in your area, or to join the Greens as a Supporting Member (\$25 annually), contact the Greens Clearinghouse, 1-800-257-7336.



Green Politics is a publication of the national Greens. Each issue carries news and reports on dozens of Green locals, coverage of Green organizing nationwide, and articles on such topics as Green Economics, Green Justice, Movement Analysis, and more.

Green Politics is available with a membership in the Greens. Bulk copies are available for as little as 50¢ per copy.

Contact the Greens Clearinghouse, PO Box 30208, Kansas City MO 64112-3208, or call 1-800-257-7336



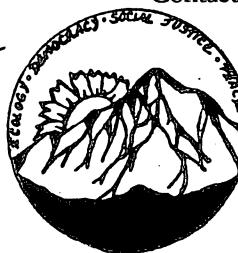
At the 1993 Gathering, the Greens adopted the idea of locally-based Direct Action Networks in place of the National Action Plan.

Direct Action Networks will facilitate communication among locals involved in an issue. A comprehensive national calendar and resource directory are in the works.

The existing Green Direct Action Networks are:

Stop NAFTA Action Group, coordinated by Diana Nika, 708 SW Cambridge Ave, Topeka KS 66606-2014, 913-273-6257.

Free Leonard Peltier, Inila-Wakan, 324 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Milford, NJ 08848, 908-995-7935. Greens call for immediate hearings on Leonard Peltier's case in order



that justice be served and the Lakota activist be freed from prison.

Health Care, Gary Zuckett, PO Box 144, Pullman, WV 26421, 304-659-3193. Contact Gary about petitions to support single-payer health plans.

Nuclear Issues, David Ellison, 2871 Hampton Rd #11, Cleveland OH 44120 [see article page 30].

Green Direct Action Networks are also being organized around Green Cities; Green Justice; Solar Power through Community Power; and Hawaiian Sovereignty.

For more information on the Direct Action Networks, contact Inila-Wakan, 324 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Milford, NJ 08848, 908-995-7935.

California Green Party Publishes Media Manual

The Statewide Media Working Group of the California Green Party has published a manual on working with the media. This handy 24-page booklet covers such topics as:

- Media lists, press kits and research
- How to contact and communicate with the media
- The role of humor

- Community-access television
- Choosing spokespeople, interviews, and frequently-asked questions to prepare for
- A sample press release

Copies of the Green Party Media Manual are available for just \$5 including postage from Green Planet Publishers, 915 Cole St #200, San Francisco CA 94117.

Synthesis/Regeneration

Synthesis/Regeneration is a magazine of Green social thought coordinated and published by members of the Greens. Recent issues have focused on topics such as Green Electoral Politics, Education for Democratic Empowerment, and "Free" Trade vs. Visions of a Green Society.

Back issues are \$3 for single copies. 50% discount for 10 or more (any combination). Call 314-727-8554 or write WD Press, PO Box 24115, St. Louis MO 63130.



Greens Gathering 1994 Slated for Boise, Idaho

The annual Greens Gathering for 1994 will be held in Boise, Idaho, from August 11-15, 1994, as part of a larger gathering called Embracing Common Ground: An International Celebration of Human and Bio-Diversity.

The Embracing Common Ground event is being co-sponsored by Idaho for Human Dignity, Idaho's leading gay/lesbian/bisexual liberation organization. Idaho for Human Dignity is organizing to stop an anti-gay ballot initiative being pushed by the Idaho Citizens Alliance. Like its better-known Oregon counterpart, Oregon Citizens Alliance, ICA is promoting an anti-individual liberty, anti-choice, and pro-religious right agenda.

The Greens Gathering part of the event, which will include both a Conference and a Green Congress, is being organized by local Greens, including Boise State University students. The Greens Gathering will include decision-making, workshops, networking, and orientations for new people.

Food will be provided for \$12/day by a Boise mobile kitchen, using local organic produce when possible. Housing will be available in dorms at Boise State, for \$6/night. Reservations are needed. Bus transportation from San Francisco to Boise is also being discussed.

For more information on the Embracing Common Ground events or specifically on the Greens Gathering, contact Jon Knapp, 208-336-9515.



Greens Gathering 1993
photos courtesy of the
Greens Clearinghouse

Greens Gathering 1993

The 1993 Greens Gathering, in Syracuse, New York, was a wonderful place for Greens to get to know each other, share organizing ideas, and network around issues they're working on.

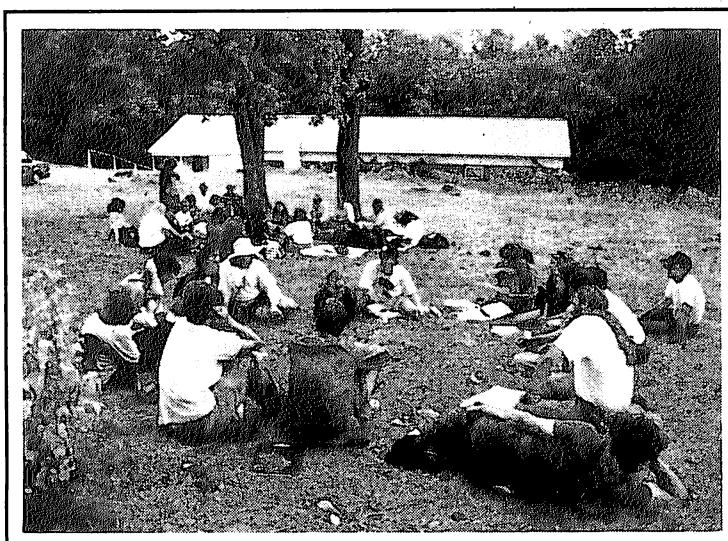
The Conference portion of the Gathering was held under outdoor pavilions in the midst of the Syracuse urban community. The Congress was held on a nearby community-supported farm, "Earthwise Education Center," which runs apprenticeship programs for the homeless from New York's cities.

The Green Congress launched several new initiatives, focusing on networking among local groups, better long-range planning, responsible budgeting, and supporting locally-based Direct Action Networks in place of a National Action Plan. A new Direct Action Network will form whenever a group of locals comes together around an issue. [See page 32].

Another primary focus of the Congress was the need to become more financially sustainable as a movement. Local representatives showed renewed commitment to pay national dues, subscribe to the *Greens Bulletin* (the Greens' internal publication), and helping the organization deal with its debts.

It was clear from this Gathering that the Green movement has become solidly established in some areas of the country. But we've got to maintain a long-view perspective regarding our work for social change. There are no shortcuts toward the "new direction for humanity" that we advocate.

From Jersey Greens Journal, PO Box 2029, Princeton, NJ 08543, 609-443-6782.





Yakama Nation encampment at Lyle Point, Washington

Struggle for Salmon Continues

by Scott Greacen and Zaz Hollander

The cold wind coming off the Columbia River frets at a small cluster of teepees huddled on the small basalt outcropping known as Lyle Point. The teepees have stood there since the end of September, when a group of Native Americans and their supporters began an occupation at the point, an age-old fishing site now threatened by the construction of a riverfront subdivision.

The protesters, united around a soft-spoken Wish-cum woman named Margaret Palmer enrolled in the Yakama Nation, are defending a burial and fishing site. The site belongs to the River people of the Yakama Nation and the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes by virtue of the 1855 Treaty and ten thousand years of occupation. They vow to remain at their teepee encampment and keep their sacred fire burning on Lyle Point until the planned Klickitat Landing subdivision is permanently halted.

Klickitat Landing

Developers have other plans for the plot of land, one of the last sizeable pieces of open riverfront property left in the Columbia Gorge. They say they have made every effort to address the fishing peoples' claims and have secured an agreement with the Yakama Nation, a claim flatly denied by Harry Smiskin, Vice-Chairman of the Yakama Tribal Council.

Despite strong opposition from the local native and environmental community, the Klickitat County Commission voted to give full approval to the proposed development. Now, 32 plots sit on 46 acres of freshly-bulldozed land. A showy rock entrance wall with a massive steel gate has been installed, and sites are being advertised nationwide.

Developers have taken no legal action

against the encampment yet, but are in for a fight if their strategy changes. "I'm just a fish-cutter," says Margaret Palmer, who supplies much of the salmon used in local tribal ceremonies, but "I don't have the fish used to have. This is my way of life. They never did show any respect or consideration for me to exercise my freedom of religion. That's where my heart is, my way of life."

Some Sundays, supporters gather at Lyle Point for a prayer session and salmon feast. These traditions are important here, where so much history has been lost.

windsurfers. If developers have their way, Lyle too will soon be a haven for wealthy windsurfers.

Legal challenges to the developer's permits are pending, and the Yakama Nation is legally contesting "violation of access and continued occupation at the Lyle Point area." In early January, the Warm Springs Confederated Tribes of Oregon announced that they would intervene on behalf of the Yakamas against the development.

The San Francisco-based Trust for Public Lands, a private group that buys land threatened by development for resale to public agencies, is bidding to purchase the land (valued at \$1 to \$4 million) from the developers, and is "hopeful that we can put something together."

Meanwhile, the occupation goes on. It was the destruction of the Palmer's fishing platform that sparked the encampment. Harassment and even gunfire from millionaire windsurfers make the Palmers and their supporters less than eager to contemplate compromises.

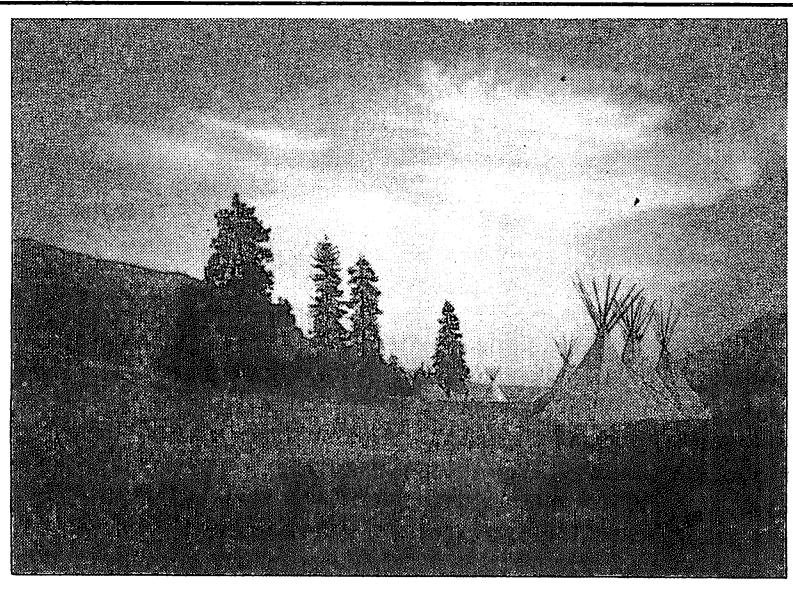
Says Doug Palmer:

"They've pushed us into a little corner. Now they are pushing us off (the land)."

The defenders of Lyle Point need people to join the encampment, food supplies, and wood to keep the sacred fire burning. As of this writing, the fire has burned through wind, snow and ice, for 138 days (since September 27, 1993).

Donations may be sent to the support group for Nanainni Waki'uulkt (Lyle Point), PO Box 536, Lyle WA 98635.

Letters can be sent to Sen. Patty Murray, 302 Hart Bldg, Washington DC 20510; Rep. Jolene Unoeld, 1527 Longworth Bldg, Washington DC 20515; Governor Mike Lowery, Legislative Bldg, Olympia WA 98504; and Daniel Inoye of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20501.



Wealthy Windsurfers

Lyle, Washington is one of the last truly rural towns along the River and has remained largely untouched by the area's recent windsurfing boom. Twelve miles west is Hood River, Oregon, a town transformed over the last decade by

Indiana Activists Launch War Tax Resisters' Penalty Fund



Sharing the Burden of Tax Resistance

by Cliff Kindy

The War Tax Resisters' Penalty Fund (WTRPF) was started by Indiana activists in 1982 to support and encourage conscientious war tax resisters across the United States. The Penalty Fund has involved almost 1000 tax resisters and supporters, and now numbers approximately 500 active members nationwide.

WTRPF operates as a sharing fund in which all participants split the amount that would reimburse the penalties and interest collected by the IRS from tax resisters. For example, if ten people request a total of \$5000, five hundred members would each send in \$10 to cover the amount for that appeal.

The threats that the IRS can bring to bear on isolated tax resisters can be quite daunting. For some folks, the support of the WTRPF network provides the encouragement to act according to their conscience. For others the promise of economic undergirding strengthens the individual commitment to act in resistance to skewed government spending priorities. The Penalty Fund has been an important cog in the war tax resistance movement.

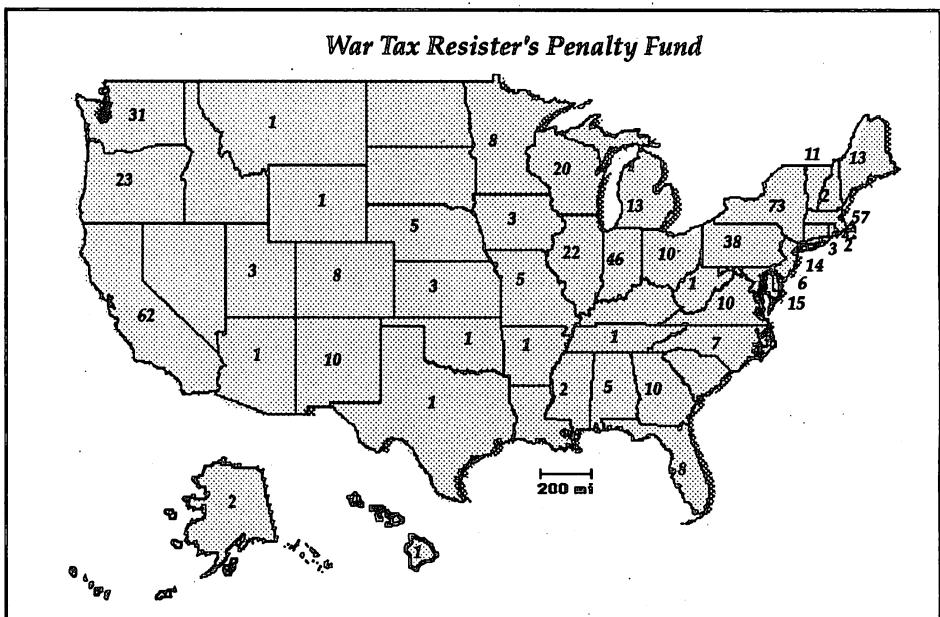
The first appeal letter was for one person in the amount of \$463. Since then, there have been 27 appeals, requesting a total of \$215,000. Over the ten years of operation the appeals have gathered and disbursed over 66% of what was requested. This is a major accomplishment since many participants are unemployed or on

Tax Resistance Resources

Conscience is published quarterly by the Conscience and Military Tax Campaign, which has provided counseling and support for war tax resisters since 1979. Subscriptions \$10. Contact CMTC, 4534-1/2 University Way NE, Seattle WA 98105, 206-547-0952.

More than a Paycheck is published by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951. See box, page 48.

Taxing Times is the newsletter of



Distribution of active WTRPF participants, 1993. From WTRPF, design by Steve Nadel.

limited income, intentional or otherwise.

At least one statewide Penalty Fund has spawned from WTRPF. Iowa has its own fund which should allow for more personal interaction among resisters. Since tax resistance is more a movement than a club and more a way of life than a business, it depends on the cooperation and emotional commitment of each participant. In some ways that may happen better on a smaller scale.

Letters from participants are filled with stories of creative witness. A man from Georgia had his bank account levied.

his pickup sold at an IRS auction, and his house put up for sale by the IRS, twice! Many resisters have intentionally created an opportunity for dialogue with the IRS agent. A couple in Oregon returned their share and their appeal letter after an explosion had blown their mail box to bits and punctured the appeal letter with a nice jagged hole. We never promise that the witnessing will be easy!

WTRPF is a volunteer project of the North Manchester, Indiana Fellowship of Reconciliation. The accompanying map shows active WTRPF participants in 1993. You are invited to increase the membership numbers listed here by joining as a contributing member yourself or by soliciting membership from friends.

For more information, contact WTRPF,
Box 25, North Manchester, IN 46962.

War Tax Victory in Colrain!

The house in Colrain, Massachusetts that was seized because the original owners were tax resisters [see *GroundWork* #3] has been vacated by the people who bought it from the IRS. It has been sold to the Valley Community Land Trust, clearing the way for the original owners to live on the land again. Contact Traprock Peace Center, 413-774-2710.

Northern California War Tax Resistance. For a free copy send a first-class stamp to: NCWTR, PO Box 2422, Berkeley, CA 94702, or call (510) 843-9877.

The Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center publishes *The Dove*. Write to 295 Forest Avenue #314, Portland, ME 04101-2018.

Life & Times is the newsletter of
New England WTR, PO Box 174, MIT
Branch, Cambridge, MA 02139.



around the country...



Bicyclists take over the streets in Portland, Oregon. Photo c. 1993 by Bette Lee, Portland Alliance.

Bicyclists in Four Cities Take Back the Streets

Bicyclists in at least four cities took to the streets for mass bike-ins last fall. GroundWork has learned of events in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Berkeley and Portland, Oregon.

More than 200 bicyclists participated in the first such event in Portland in late September. Organized by a new group called Critical Mass (the same name is used by Berkeley activists), the bikers rode through downtown Portland during rush hour.

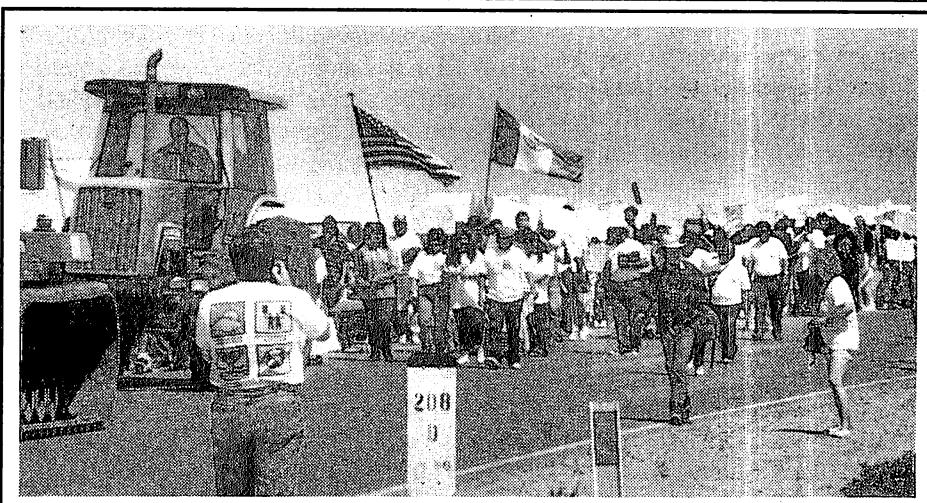
Protesters cited a wide range of motivations for their involvement. Paul Carusoe told the Portland Alliance that he participated "Because cars suck. I mean that literally as well as figuratively. They suck resources from the earth and they suck energy from peoples' lives."

Jim Elliott, who hasn't driven a car since 1978, put it more succinctly: "We're here to make the motorheads stay in their own damn lanes."

Contact Portland Critical Mass at 503-

**Camp Sister Spirit
Confronts Homophobic
Violence in Mississippi —**
see page 45

790-2166. For contacts in other cities listed above, or if you have news of other bike events, call GroundWork, 415-255-7623.



The Southern San Joaquin Valley, the heart of California's billion dollar agricultural industry, is the site of cancer clusters and numerous incidences of spinal bifida. The United Farm Workers say that pesticides may be the culprit. Toxic waste dumps, such as the Laidlaw Hazardous Waste Site, where petroleum is stored, may also be involved.

Environmental organizing has drawn together farmers and farm workers, professionals and the unemployed. Near the community of Buttonwillow (pop. 1600), several hundred people marched against the proposed expansion of the Laidlaw dump following a bilingual rally organized by Padres Hacia Una Vida Mejor (Parents United for Better Living). Speakers included local ministers, the school board superintendent, and Lions Club officers.

Photo c. 1993 by Donald Goertzen. Thanks to the Bakersfield Californian.

Georgia Activists Stop Hazardous Waste Incinerator

When government officials in Georgia announced plans to build a hazardous waste incinerator in Taylor County, residents dug in their heels to resist.

Citizens responded by a variety of creative methods. One involved convincing local politicians to adopt ordinances restricting the transport of hazardous waste through their territory, ringing the proposed site with "no transport zones."

And when the governor's attorney stated that "Most hazardous waste is safe enough to drink," activists obtained water from a waste site at Emelle, Alabama and offered him a drink. He quickly changed his opinion.

Public pressure ultimately forced hearings which officially concluded that "Georgia doesn't generate enough waste to support a hazardous waste incinerator." Thus, anti-incinerator organizers saved the state a \$50 million economic and environmental disaster.

For more information on the Taylor County incinerator fight, call 706-269-3630. Excerpted from the *What Works Bulletin*. See page 47 for information.



Wilderness Clash in Idaho Rockies

by Karen Pickett & Ramon

[GroundWork #3 described the campaign to preserve the heart of the Nez Perce National Forest in central Idaho. The issues at stake were discussed in that article. What follows is an update on what actually occurred during summer 1993.]

In the winter of 1991 the U.S. Forest Service began a massive roadbuilding and logging project in the heart of a 160,000 acre roadless area in the Nez Perce National Forest in Central Idaho, in fact, one of the largest timber sales in Forest Service history in the Northern Rockies. Earth First! activists came to investigate what was happening to this premier wilderness in the spring of 1992 and launched a focused campaign that summer. In 1993, there was a major effort to bring forest activists to this remote location. In a number of bold direct action scenarios, activists have occupied platforms high in trees in the proposed roadcut, formed human chains blockading progress on the road, and locked themselves to equipment and Forest Service gates. On July 15, in one of the most dramatic protests, four activists buried themselves chest-deep in the road cut and waited for law enforcement to arrive.

The summer's campaign started on a very high note, indeed. Over Memorial Day weekend, as the last of the snow melted, almost 200 activists from around the country and abroad gathered at the private 20 acre "inholding", which would serve as the action's staging area, near the road-building project. Long-time Earth First!ers (including co-founders Mike Roselle and Howie Wolke) joined with newcomers and Idaho/Montana locals to plan the non-violent strategies. Outreach and networking programs were put into motion and feelers went out to politicians, media, mainstream environmental groups and nationally-known authors and videographers. But it quickly became clear that the "authorities" — Federal, State, and County — had their own agenda....

Feds raid camp

They upped the ante by making unsubstantiated allegations of tree-spiking

and monkey-wrenching on national TV in mid-summer. Alluding to information allegedly supplied from an informant, they obtained a search warrant and on August 8th, about 30 armed federal and state agents staged a raid on the base camp. They herded the four dozen or so people in camp into a makeshift corral for several hours while they conducted a thorough search of tents, campsites and vehicles. Items confiscated included diaries, wallets,

have to stay out of Idaho County except for court appearances. The local bail bondsman agreed to post bond on the stipulation that they remain in Idaho County. It was a cute little Catch-22 which turned out to be moot since no one had the money for bail in any event (see "Raid" above).

Wild Rockies Wilderness Week, in mid-August, was an effort to broaden the base of support for the Cove/Mallard

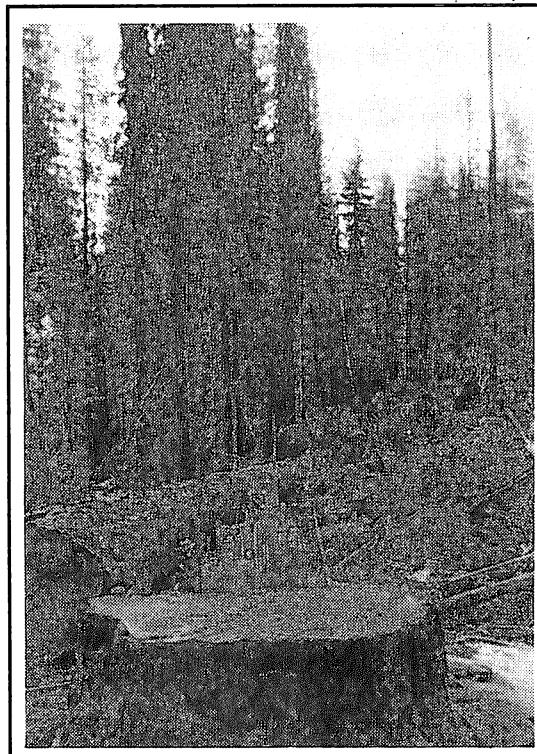
Roadless Area by bringing together grassroots public lands advocates from the Northern Rockies region. The event also brought media. ABC-TV from Washington DC happened to be on the scene when local activist Steve Paulson, a third generation Idaho native, was set upon by a gang of ten beery thugs and severely beaten. ABC got some bloody head shots for the nightly news, preferring to air that rather than expose the silty erosion washing down from the fresh roadcut. This set the tone for a "War in the Woods" piece, ignoring the ecological issues.

Harassment of the wilderness defenders continued, and in early September the local road-building contractor filed a SLAPP suit (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) against 31 individuals and six "associations", including the Earth First! Journal and Earth First! itself. Citing Idaho's version of the notorious RICO

statutes (Criminal Racketeering charges), the suit asks for triple damages in the amount of \$300,000.

On the up side, Cove/Mallard has become a recognized key wilderness area in the battle that revolves around the carving up of the last wild areas in the Northern Rockies. And wilderness activists, undeterred, are planning for the 1994 campaign. A lawsuit citing violations of the Endangered Species Act has been filed and an injunction is being sought to halt further logging until the case is heard. News of the

continued on page 51



Activists are working to prevent this future for the Cove/Mallard Roadless Area, Nez Perce National Forest. Photo courtesy Bill Haskins.

driver's licenses, and IDs. Also a dog leash and credit cards and cash. (Credit cards? Cash?? Earth First!ers carry credit cards and CASH!!!!)

After the raid, things got weirder. Activists who had protested the construction of the worst of the destructive roads by burying themselves in it not only risked injury, but found themselves facing felony charges of "Conspiracy to Commit Grand Theft", theoretically for "stealing" the access to the road from the contractor bulldozing it. The judge set bail at \$5,000 and added the stipulation that they would

Fighting the Clearcutting of

An Interview with Tzeporah Berman, Blockade
Interviewed by

A loud accordion woke us in the middle of the cold dark night. Hundreds of us crawled out of our tents, vans and trucks as the accordion player, accompanied by flutes, pipes and guitars strolled up and down the old logging roads we were camped around. It was our 3:15 a.m. wake up call. The Camp was set in the middle of a massive, ageing slashed-and-burnt-to-the-horizon clearcut called "The Black Hole" in Clayoquot Sound on the west coast of Canada's Vancouver Island. It was bustling and alive in the darkness, as 150 cars, trucks, vans and buses—all packed with people—lined up along the road. Headlights were turned on—the signal to move—and the giant caravan wound several miles west to the primary logging road to the remaining rainforest. A Native Elder spoke and local activists sang and spoke as seven hundred of us milled in the pre-dawn cold. Nearly two hundred people stood in the road waiting to blockade MacMillan Bloedel's logging trucks and face arrest by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Dawn lit up the forest. We waited. Finally, we received word that MacMillan Bloedel had canceled work in anticipa-

tion of our large numbers following Labor Day weekend. Organizers declared the day's blockade victorious and by 9:30am we had returned for breakfast at the Camp kitchen. The next day, September 8, the scenario was repeated. MacMillan Bloedel had canceled work for their companies crews, but some subcontractors, Department of Forestry workers and area residents were confronted by our blockade. Each vehicle was stopped by the blockade and asked to explain their business to the several hundred of us standing in the road. After a few questions and some discussion, the group would make a decision; three roadbuilding crew trucks were turned back; mushroom hunters and fishermen were allowed through.

After a week spent in camp and on the blockade the sense of urgency and depth of commitment of the community formed around this dynamic movement left deep impressions. Tzeporah Berman is part of the strong, radical community of local organizers for the campaign. She is blockade coordinator for Friends of Clayoquot Sound. The British Columbian provincial government has charged her with criminal conspiracy charges, which carry a two year maximum sentence. Her trial is set for April 1994. I spoke with her in early November at WGDR community radio in central Vermont.



Kennedy River Bridge, pict.
Left photo Friends of Clayoquot S

Canada's Last Rainforest

Coordinator for Friends of Clayoquot Sound

David Solnit

What is Clayoquot Sound and why are you fighting so hard to save it?

Clayoquot Sound is one of the last remaining areas of intact lowland temperate rainforest of its size in the world. It's an area on the west coast of Vancouver Island in Canada where the ocean meets islands and fjords of rainforest that have in them thousands of species that we know nothing about: the endangered Marbled Murrelet, which is an ancient seabird that is threatened worldwide, the Black Bear, eagles, hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and one of the largest sharks in the world, the Baskin Shark. Its also an area that's home to thousand year old trees — ancient Cedars that can reach up to 64 feet in

diameter, and ancient Sitka Spruce that can be over 200 feet tall. Conservation biologists are saying that you need an area of at least 260 thousand hectares to preserve the bio-diversity of an eco-system. Clayoquot Sound is 262,000 hectares and twenty five percent of it has already been logged — so we're really on the cusp of preserving an entire ecosystem.

What's the history of logging in the area and what sparked the recent wave of mass blockades?

There's been logging going on there for well over a decade now, but quite slowly. Its sped up in the last five years.

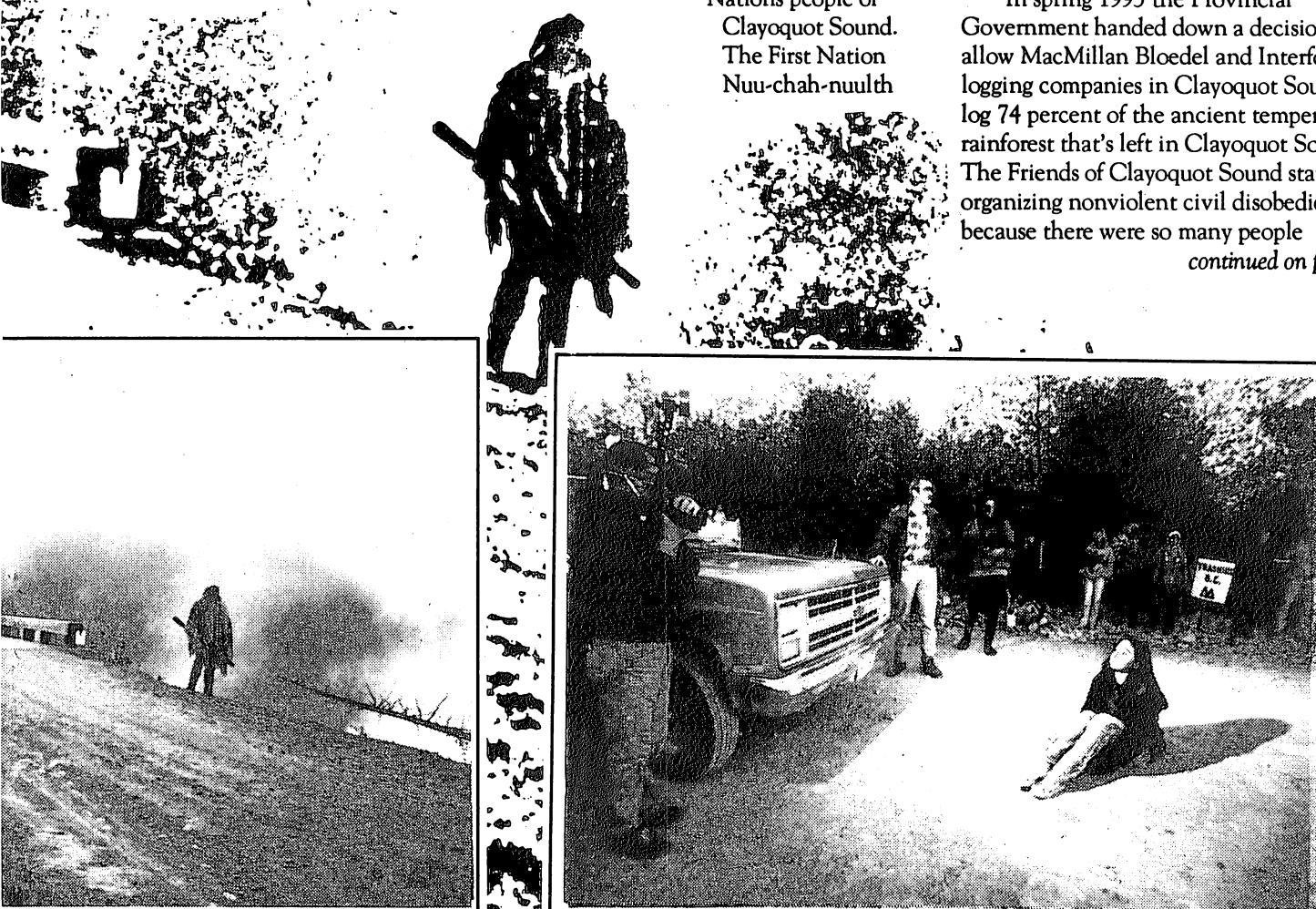
The first blockades were in 1984. It was over Meares Island, which is a sacred place to the First Nations people of Clayoquot Sound. The First Nation Nuu-chah-nuulth

people, who have never ceded their land title or jurisdiction, were fighting for Meares Island. The Friends of Clayoquot Sound joined them in blockading logging operations. As a result there was a moratorium on logging. They're still in the courts arguing for their land title, but Meares Island hasn't been cut yet.

Since then, there have been various civil disobedience actions in Clayoquot Sound, because the official task forces and sustainable development committees that were set up were failing. While we sat around the table and talked the clearcutting was going on. So when the processes failed people took to the roads. There were blockades in Clayoquot Sound since the mid-1980's but quite small — it was mostly local people.

In spring 1993 the Provincial Government handed down a decision to allow MacMillan Bloedel and Interfor, the logging companies in Clayoquot Sound, to log 74 percent of the ancient temperate rainforest that's left in Clayoquot Sound. The Friends of Clayoquot Sound started organizing nonviolent civil disobedience because there were so many people

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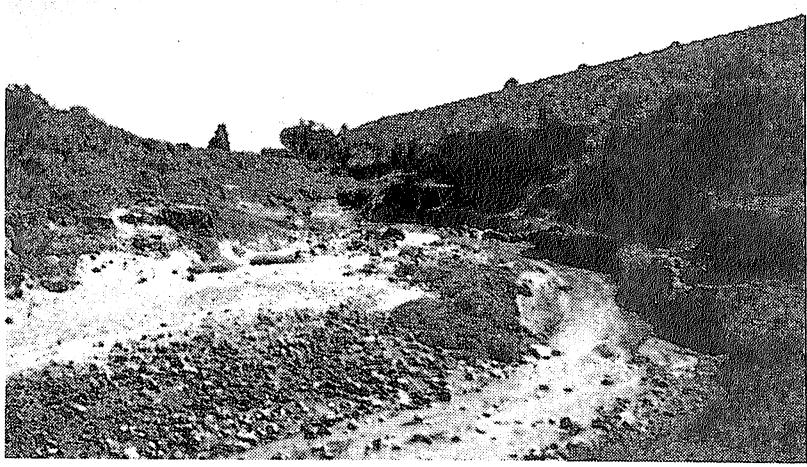
rescue site of many of the blockades.
Ind. Center & right c.1993 by Lisa Trembley

Water-rights struggles

Photos and report by Rosa Alegria

[Rosa Alegria of SAIIC travelled to the Second Continental Encounter in Mexico City in October 1993 — see page 45. Afterwards, she spent several weeks in the village of San Lorenzo Cuahuento as the guest of an Indigenous resident. With NAFTA and the top-down integration of the Mexican and United States' economies, it is interesting to observe and learn from similarities and differences in grassroots struggles. As we are going to press, the Chiapas rebellion is still making headlines. This story shows some of the chronic conditions that form the backdrop to the Indigenous situation in Mexico.]

A housing project for state workers is threatening to deplete the water table beneath the Mazahua village of San Lorenzo Cuahuento, located in the municipality of Almoloya de Juarez, 28 km from the city of Toluca in the State of Mexico. The housing project is being built for



The river near the town of San Lorenzo. Once the source of the town's water, this tributary of the Rio Lerma has been polluted by a paper mill for the past twenty years.

SAIIC

The South and Meso American Indian Information Center (SAIIC) strives to promote and develop the organization of Indian people at the local, national and international levels and to support their full participation in decision making processes that affect their lives and the well-being of their children.

SAIIC's activities include: the Information & Networking program; the Visitor's Program, bringing South and Meso American Indian leaders to meet with Native people of the U.S. and Canada as well as with peace, environmental, and human rights groups; the Women's Project; Defense of Human Rights & the Environment; and Technical Assistance to Indian communities.

Contact SAIIC, P.O. Box 28703, Oakland CA, 94604, USA, (510) 834-4263.



A typical house and garden in San Lorenzo.

SUTEYM, a union of government workers, and would include 1,200 single family dwellings.

The project is located on land that used to be part of the village of San Lorenzo, which numbers roughly 240 households. The land was sold to developers by an inhabitant of San Lorenzo under the new Mexican constitutional reforms that permit the sale of Indigenous lands, land which used to be inalienable. Such sales of Indigenous land were part of the grievances voiced during the January 1994 Chiapas rebellion.

The town of San Lorenzo has struggled hard for 10 years in order to obtain State help to dig a well and purchase a pump. The local river, where villagers used to obtain their water, has been polluted for the last twenty years by a paper mill that discharges its waste into the water.

Now that the village has at last obtained its well — the water distribution system is not even in



in a Mexican village

place yet — villagers are finding out that the new State housing construction plans to obtain all of its water supply from their well, with no definite guarantees as to how the village will benefit from this arrangement.

Local activists force hearing

Indigenous activists are seeking to utilize the International Labor Organization's Covenant 169 in order to protect their rights in this instance. Mexico is one of the few countries that has signed and adopted this international Covenant which seeks to guarantee Indigenous rights. However, many people question the Mexican Government's motives in signing the Covenant, since little effort has been

made to enforce these laws. According to Article 15 of the Covenant, Indigenous communities must be consulted and indemnified for any losses suffered whenever the State wishes to utilize any sub-surface resources located on Indigenous lands. (In Mexico, all sub-surface resources belong to the State;

yet according to the Covenant, the State has clearly-defined obligations even in this circumstance.)

State bureaucrats have argued that they have complied with this law in the case of San Lorenzo by negotiating with the town's Water Board. Yet as Indigenous people throughout Mexico and North America know, it is all too common for "official Indigenous authorities" not to act in the best interest of the community. In this case, most of the members of the community first found out about the proposed give-away of their local water by rumor and hearsay. It was only after a number of concerned villagers made a fact-finding trip to Mexico City that the village authorities set a date for a public town meeting regarding the water.

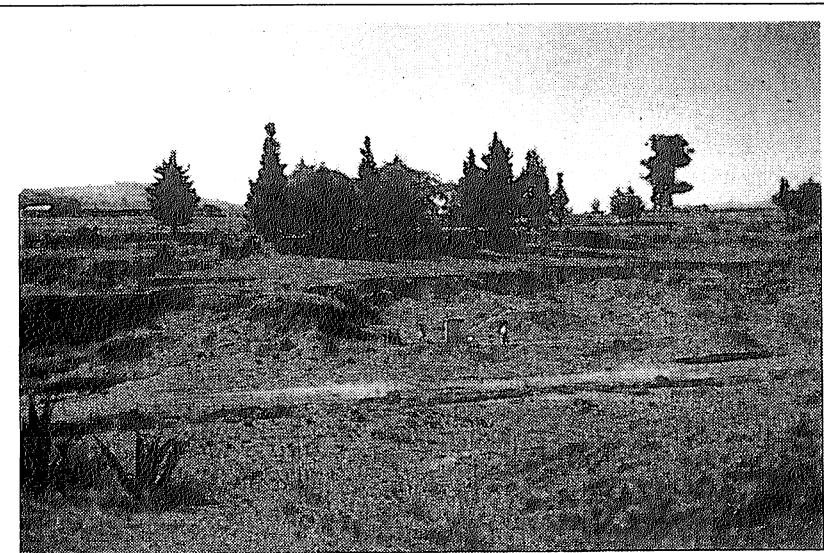
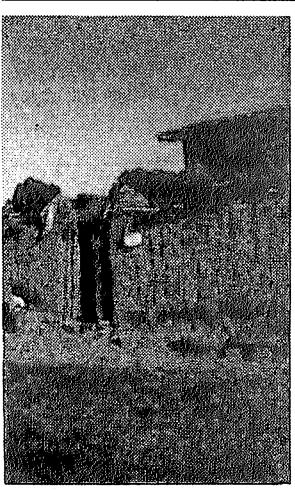
The town meeting took place on October 24th, 1993. Those in favor of giving away the town's water argued that there was plenty of water for both the village and the housing development, without any substantiation for the figures they presented. They told the villagers that if they decided not to give away the water, the State would come in, cover the well, and leave the town without water for the next 20 years. Additionally, they promised that if the villagers did give away the water, they would have the water distribution system built for free.

When it was clear that many of the community's members were still not in favor of giving away the water, the authorities' henchmen who were running the meeting promptly enforced a dubious and confusing voting procedure, and announced that the side favoring the water give-away won, 112 to 107. The authorities refused to return the opposition's list of signatures, or to furnish a copy of the signatures gathered by their own side for verification.

Mazahua Defense Council forms

As a result of these political manipulations, a group of activist Mazahuas has formed the Mazahua Defense Council, whose stated aim is to defend the natural resources and the ecology of their villages. To quote from a declaration they have written, protesting the foregoing events:

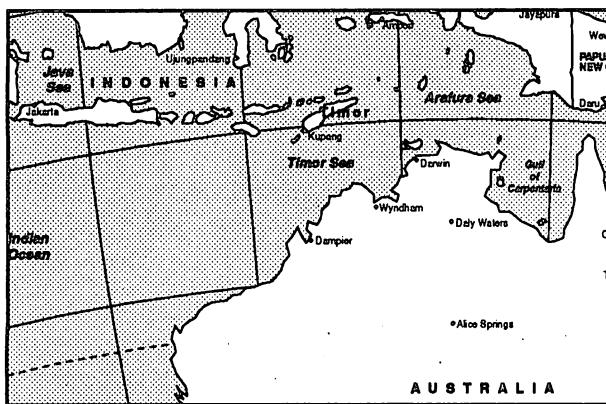
continued on page 51



Small structure in the center is a well which would have been polluted by septic system.

Indonesian Troops Training in US Bases

Despite a Congressional ban, the Clinton Administration is allowing Indonesian military officers to train at the US Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia (among other sites). Infamous as a training site for Central American officers, the Indonesian army is training at Fort Benning, despite the 1992 cut-off of IMET (training) aid. The congressional aid cut-off is being cynically side-stepped by allowing the Indonesian military to "purchase" the previously US subsidized training



The Congressional aid cut-off had been voted in after the Indonesian army massacred over 100 East Timorese in Nov, 1992, who were participating in a funeral protesting previous killings. Unlike previous human rights violations by Indonesian troops occupying East Timor, this one received widespread attention in the US - for the typical US reason - two US reporters covering the peaceful march were beat up by Indonesian troops.

East Timor gained its independence

after 500 years of Portuguese rule, when the Portuguese dictatorship fell in 1975. Indonesia promptly invaded (one day after a visit to Indonesia by President Ford and Henry Kissinger), and has illegally occupied East Timor since. US weapons aid to Indonesia has fueled the occupation, which Amnesty International has directly

or indirectly caused the death of over 100,000 Timorese.

Please contact your Senators and Congressman to protest

continuing US military support of the Indonesian occupation of East Timor. Further information about the Indonesian troops training in the US can be received from the Project on Demilitarization and Democracy, 1601 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 500, Washington DC 20009 (202-234-9383).

For more information about East Timor, contact the East Timor Action Network, PO Box 210547, San Francisco, CA 94121 (415-387-2822)

Plutonium Free Future Sponsors International Resolution

Plutonium Free Future asks you to take an important step towards nuclear disarmament and safeguarding the global environment by asking your group to discuss and pass the Resolution for a Plutonium Free World. This resolution calls for a worldwide halt to the production of plutonium, one of the deadliest substances known. We need your help in urging cities, states and nations, as well as peace and environmental groups, to adopt this resolution.

We hope to have the resolution introduced into the United Nations General Assembly in 1995, the fiftieth year since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and of the founding of the United Nations, which in its first resolution called for the abolition of nuclear weapons. By 1995, we hope to have ten nations, a hundred cities, and a thousand organizations sign on in support of the resolution.

It only takes one person to introduce the resolution to an organization, church, political party, or local government.

Once the resolution is adopted, please send it to the local media, and send a copy to us at Plutonium Free Future.

For more information, contact Plutonium Free Future, 2018 Shattuck #140, Berkeley CA 94704, 510-540-7645.

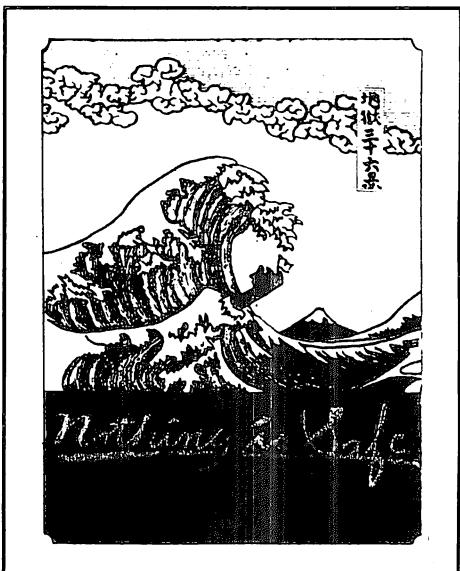
Mississippi Jail Lynchings

Since 1987, when Charles Tisdale, publisher of the Jackson Advocate, began investigating the questionable "suicides" of African-American males in Mississippi jails and prisons, 62 additional black and white deaths have been reported, over half by African-Americans. Several of these "suicides" have in fact been homicides. In the case of Andre Jones, an independent medical examiner found that his death was not suicide; he was lynched. Andre Jones was found hanging from a showerstall, by shoestrings, with no chair or other means available to lift him off the floor. The Mississippi offices of the FBI and Dept. of Justice have only aided in the cover-up.

On Feb. 15, 1994, Ben Chaney,

Director of the James Earl Chaney Foundation, went to Washington DC to petition Don Edwards (Chairman of the House Subcommittee of Civil and Constitutional Rights) to investigate these lynchings and their cover-up

The Committee Against Mississippi Jail Lynchings is building support for Mr. Chaney's efforts. They urge people to write Don Edwards (2307 Rayburn Building, Washington DC, 20515) to urge a Congressional hearing of the FBI and Dept. of Justice activities in these cases. For further information, contact the Committee Against Mississippi Jail Lynchings, 2489 Mission Street, Suite 28, San Francisco CA (415-821-6545)



The Revolutionary Process

by C. T. Lawrence Butler

If you were asked to pick one thing that would bring about social, political, and economic revolution in this country, what would you pick? Most people would pick their favorite issue, be it civil rights, demilitarization, environmental sustainability, or whatever. Some people would choose a system of values to replace the capitalist system, such as socialism or the Ten Key Values of the Greens. But few people would even think of changing group dynamics (the way people treat each other when interacting with one another in a group); or specifically, the process they use when making decisions.

Process is the key to revolutionary change.

This is not a new message.

Visionaries have long pointed to this but it is a hard lesson to learn. As recently as the 1970s, feminists clearly defined the lack of an alternative process for decisionmaking and group interaction as the single most important obstacle in the way of real change, both within progressive organizations and for society at large.

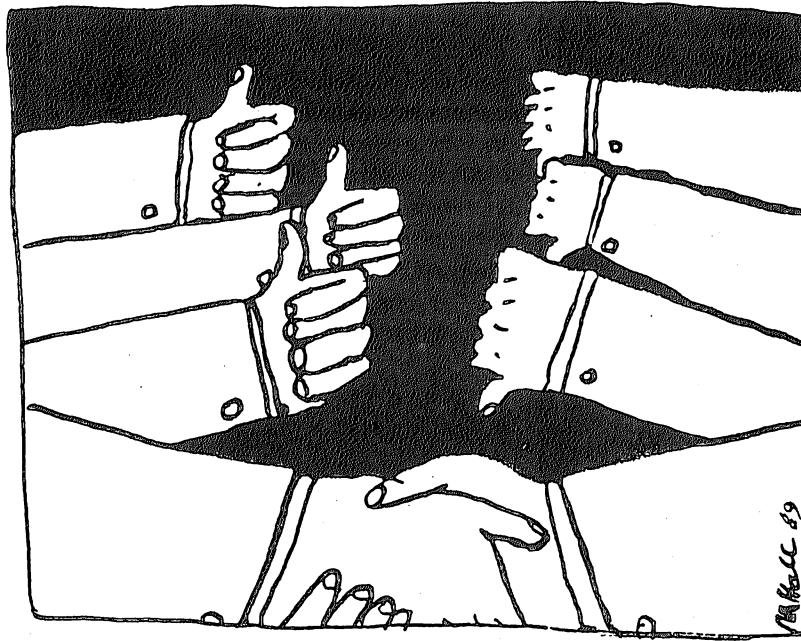
Despite progress on many issues of concern to progressive-minded people, very little has changed in the way people treat each other, either locally or globally, and almost nothing has changed about who makes the decisions. The values of competition, which allow us to accept the idea that somebody has to lose; the structure of hierarchy, which, by definition, creates power elites; and the techniques of domination and control, which dehumanize and alienate all parties affected by their use, are the standards of group interaction with which we were all conditioned. There are few models in our society which offer an alternative.

All groups, no matter what their mission or political philosophy, use some form of process to accomplish their work.

Almost all groups, no matter where they fall on the social, political, and economic spectrum of society, have a hierarchical structure, accept competition as "natural" and even desirable, and put a good deal of

in fact, the opposite is true. In most situations, helping others do their best actually increases your ability to do better. And in group interactions, the cooperative spirit actually allows the group's best to be better than the sum of its parts.

Cooperation is more than "live and let live". It is making an effort to understand another's point of view. It is incorporating another's perspective with your own so that a new perspective emerges. It is suspending disbelief, even if only temporarily, so you can see the gem of truth in ideas other than your own. It is a process of creativity, synthesis, and open-mindedness which leads to trust-building, better communication and understanding, and ultimately, a stronger, healthier, more successful



effort into maintaining control of their members. It is telling that in our society, there are opposing groups, with very different perspectives and values, which have identical structures and techniques for interaction and decisionmaking. If you played a theater game in which both groups wore the same costumes and masks and spoke in gibberish rather than words, a spectator would not be able to tell them apart.

From Competition to Cooperation

So what would an alternative revolutionary process look like, you ask? To begin with, a fundamental shift from competition to cooperation. This does not mean to do away with competition. Ask any team coach what the key to victory is and you will be told "cooperation within the team". The fundamental shift is the use of competition not to win, which is just a polite way of saying to dominate, to beat, to destroy, to kill the opposition; but rather, to use competition to do or be the best. In addition, the cooperative spirit recognizes that it is not necessary to attack another's efforts in order to do your best;

group.

The next step is the development of an organization which is non-hierarchical or egalitarian. A corresponding structure would include: participatory democracy, routine universal skill-building and information sharing, rotation of leadership roles, frequent evaluations, and, perhaps most importantly, equal access to power. Hierarchical structures are not, in and of themselves, the problem. But their use concentrates power at the top and, invariably, the top becomes less and less accessible to the people at the bottom, who are usually most affected by the decisions made by those at the top. Within groups (and within society itself), there becomes a power elite. In an egalitarian structure, everyone has access to power and every position of power is accountable to everyone. This does not mean that there are no leaders. But the leaders actively share skills and information. They recognize that leadership is a role empowered by the entire group, not a personal characteristic. A group in which most or

continued on page 52

Conferences & Calls to Action

Activists Come Together at Great Lakes Mining Conference



Chippewa organizer Walt Bresette addresses the Great Lakes Mining Conference. Photo courtesy Rick Whaley.

Hawai'i Peoples Tribunal

Reports from the People's International Tribunal held in Hawai'i in August 1993 [see *GroundWork* #3], are available. The Tribunal heard testimony from indigenous island residents about land struggles, environmental issues, and cultural activities in the Hawai'iian islands.

The Kanaka Maoli nation, indigenous people of the Hawai'iian islands, played a major role in organizing this tribunal, which was sponsored by over 100 grassroots groups and citizen's organizations.

Contact *Ka Lahui Hawai'i*, Mililani B. Trask, Kia'aina, PO Box 4964, Hilo, HI 96720.



Fuerza Unida Levi's Boycott Continues

Former garment workers at the Levi's plant in San Antonio, Texas continue their boycott of all Levi's products. The plant was closed in 1990 and moved to Costa Rica, resulting in 1150 jobs lost in Texas. Ninety percent of the workers were Mexican-American women.

The women banded together to fight back. They formed Fuerza Unida, and point out that over 7000 Levi's jobs have been lost in the U.S. since 1985, while Levi's profits soared.

Go Patchless

Already own Levi's pants? Show your support for the boycott by cutting off the patch and mailing it to Levi's headquarters, 1155 Battery, San Francisco CA 94111, saying that you will not buy Levi's again until the company settles with Fuerza Unida.

For more information on the boycott and Fuerza Unida, write or call PO Box 830083, San Antonio TX 78283-0083, 512-299-2666.

Indigenous Environmental Network Gathers in June

The national Gathering of the Indigenous Environmental Network will be held June 15-18 at the Mole Lake Chippewa Reservation in Wisconsin. The gathering will focus on stopping the Exxon Mineral copper mine near Crandon, which threatens the Mole Lake wild rice beds.

The IEN gathering will be held in conjunction with the annual Protect the Earth gathering at Mole Lake, June 18-19.

For more information on the Protect the Earth gathering, contact the Midwest Treaty Network, 731 State St, Madison WI 53703, 608-249-2390.

For more information on the Indigenous Environmental Gathering, contact the US-Midwest Regional Office, PO Box 485, Bemidji MN 56601, or write the Mole Lake Reservation, Route 1, Box 625, Crandon WI 54520.

More Native American News —
see page 20-21 & page 34

Conferences & Calls to Action

Second Continental Encounter, Mexico

From October 8-13, 1993, at the beautiful Otomi Ceremonial Center in the mountains outside of Mexico City, more than 300 participants gathered for the Second Encounter of Indigenous Nations and Organizations.

The Second Encounter was sponsored by the Coordinadora de Organizaciones y Naciones Indígenas del Continente (Coordinating Body of Indigenous Nations and Organizations of the Continent), or CONIC for short. CONIC is a network of some of the major grass-roots Indigenous organizations of Mexico, Central and South America.

The Second Encounter is the first continental event since Quito that was planned, organized, and directed by Indigenous people.

The main impetus for CONIC has come from the South, and reflects both the greater degree of organization to be found there as well as the large Indigenous population: an estimated 43 million between Mexico, South and Central America. North American Indigenous organizations that have been interested in developing north-south links were also present at the Encounter.



Delegates participated in roundtables, designed to foster participation and create consensus on the following key issues: Spirituality & Tradition; Land Rights, Development & the Environment; Self-Determination, Legislation, & Indigenous Rights; Women, Family, & Community; and Education, Culture, & Youth.

The Encounter produced several documents, which are available from SAIC. CONIC, as a coalition of well-established grass-roots organizations, is seeking due recognition by the United Nations in order to participate during deliberations that affect Indigenous peoples.

The next Hemispheric Grass-Roots Indigenous Encounter (a tentative title!) is scheduled for September/October 1994 in Guatemala, hosted by the Consejo de Organizaciones Mayas de Guatemala (COMG).

By Rosa Alegria and Nilo Cayuqueo, of the South and Meso American Indian Information Center. For more information, contact SAIC at: P.O. Box 28703, Oakland CA 94604, (510) 834-4263.

Nuclear Free Zone Call Issued by Indigenous Environmental Coalition

In order to establish Nuclear Free Zones (NFZs) on Indian land, the National Environmental Coalition of Native Americans (NECONA), based in Oklahoma, has formed an alliance with Nuclear Free America, an international clearinghouse for Nuclear Free Zones. 192 American locales in 29 states have declared themselves nuclear free zones, as well as 43 entire countries throughout the world.

In 1984, the Flathead Nation-Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes were the first Indian tribes to declare their reservations a NFZ.

NECONA formed recently among grassroots Indians concerned over the government's efforts to place nuclear waste on Indian lands. The Department of Energy is promising money, jobs, roads, etc. Few Indians recognize the health hazards associated with radioactivity. Most Native Americans do not want to leave this legacy for their future generations.

So far, the White Mountain Apache, in White River, Arizona, and the Kickapoo tribe in Horton, Kansas have declared their lands NFZs. At least a dozen other tribes are considering the proposal.

For more information, contact NECONA, 2213 W. Eighth St, Prague OK 74864, or Nuclear Free America, 325 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218.

by Grace Thorpe

Arctic to Amazonia Congress

"Seeds of Hope: Reclaiming the Forest" is the second international congress on human culture and the environment sponsored by the Arctic to Amazonia Alliance.

The congress will be at Brattleboro, Vermont, May 5-9, 1994.

The congress will highlight world-quality leadership coming from indigenous nations. The focus will be on the many ways in which people and forests can enrich and sustain each other, and on showing the industrialized world that humans can be part of a balanced and healthy forest ecosystem.

For more information, contact Box 73, Strafford, VT 05072, 802-765-4337.

Camp Sister Spirit in Rural Mississippi Confronts Homophobic Violence

A women's center in rural Mississippi, Camp Sister Spirit, is under seige after local fundamentalists heard that some of the women at the center are lesbian. Death and bomb threats have been sent, a Sister Spirit dog was killed, and a local anti-Camp meeting was attended by at least two deputy sheriffs.

In response, women and men from around the country have organized to support the Camp. A number of women from California and elsewhere have traveled to Camp Sister Spirit, and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, headquartered in Washington DC, has successfully lobbied attorney general Janet Reno to order the Justice Department's Conflict Resolution Service to enter the conflict.

Camp Sister Spirit, built on 120 acres of farmland, was founded as an educational and cultural center by Brenda and Wanda Hansen. For more information, contact them at 601-344-1411.

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force can be reached at 202-332-6483.

Thanks to the San Francisco Sentinel (see page 25), Cynthia Kruger and Danielle Storer



Grassroots activists unite in support of Chippewa fishing rights

Walleye Warriors: An Effective Alliance Against Racism & for the Earth

Toxic Struggles

The Theory and Practice of Environmental Justice

Toxic Struggles, edited by Richard Hoffericher, with a foreword by Lois Gibbs, is an anthology of writings exploring the movement's philosophical underpinnings, its global connections, and its relevance to civil rights and worker's rights movements.

The grassroots movement for environmental justice is typically led by women, working-class people and people of color, many of whom have never been involved in politics before. Most of the communities in which waste facilities are sited are neighborhoods whose constituents are poor, Native American, African-American, and Latino-American.

Contributors include the late Cesar Chavez, Ynestra King, Winona LaDuke, Richard Moore, and John O'Conner.

Environmental justice seeks a reconstruction of society — a guarantee of the fundamental rights to clean air, land and water, and an end to unlimited corporate expansion and exploitation. *Toxic Struggles* articulates that vision.

Available from New Society Publishers.

Stopping Rape

In *Stopping Rape: A Challenge for Men*, Rus Ervin Funk insists that men can create a world without rape. Funk encourages men to take responsibility for violence, and to take action to end it.

Funk is very clear: Rape is a political crime committed by men against women, children, and sometimes other men. By recognizing rape as men's problem, Funk signals a change, a possibility for hope.

New Society Publishers Catalog

New Society Publishers is an independent, not-for-profit, worker-controlled publisher. Catalog includes books on feminism, economics, group process, resources for parents and teachers, and more. Write New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19143.

Each spring when the ice clears, the Anishinabe (Chippewa) harvest fish from the lakes of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Their ancient subsistence fishing tradition is protected by treaties and reinforced by federal court rulings. But for years, the fishers were met by stones, racial epithets, and death threats hurled by local sports fishermen, resort and cottage owners, and other white neighbors.

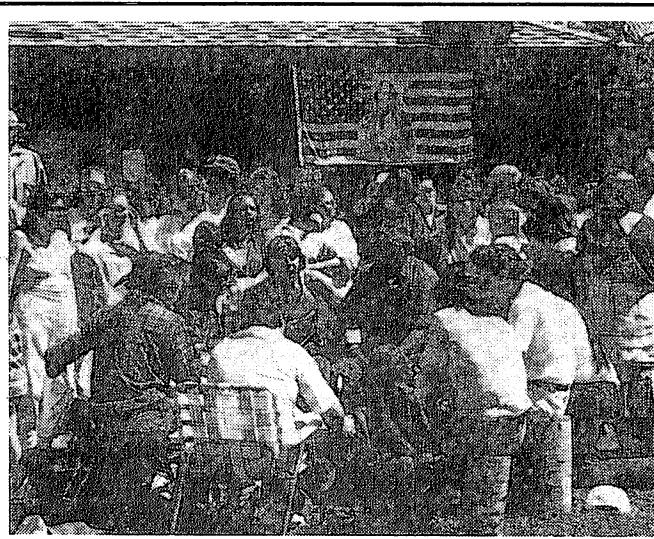
Walleye Warriors, by Chippewa activ-

ist Walter Bresette and Witness for Nonviolence organizer Rick Whaley, tells the story of how a multi-race and class alliance of Anishinabe, local residents, and activists defused these tense confrontations by witnessing and documenting them. The walleye warriors and their supporters were successful at protecting Chippewa sovereignty despite the attempted use of racism, economic threats, and local government manipulations.

The victorious alliance is continuing the struggle for environmental justice and cultural diversity by striving to stop corporate attempts to mine — and so destroy — northern Wisconsin.

This book is a major resource on indigenous treaty rights, civil rights, environmental protection, and sustainable economics.

From New Society Publishers (see catalog, this page).



Drum gatherings often preceded treaty-rights' supporters' departure for the lakes. Photo by GLIFWC.

Chelsea Green Offers Alternative Titles

The Fall 1993 Chelsea Green catalog lists dozens of alternative titles dealing with topics such as the environment, Native American authors, travel books, cooking, and kids' books.

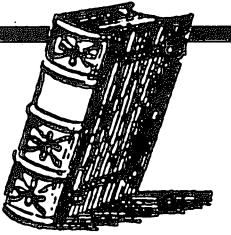


The featured new title is Michael Potts' *The Independent Home: Living Well with Power from the Sun, Wind & Water*. The book features interviews with pioneers of alternative energy from Hawaii to Vermont, some living completely off the utility grid.

For a copy of Chelsea Green Publishing Company's Catalog, write 52 LaBombard Road North, Lebanon NH 03766.

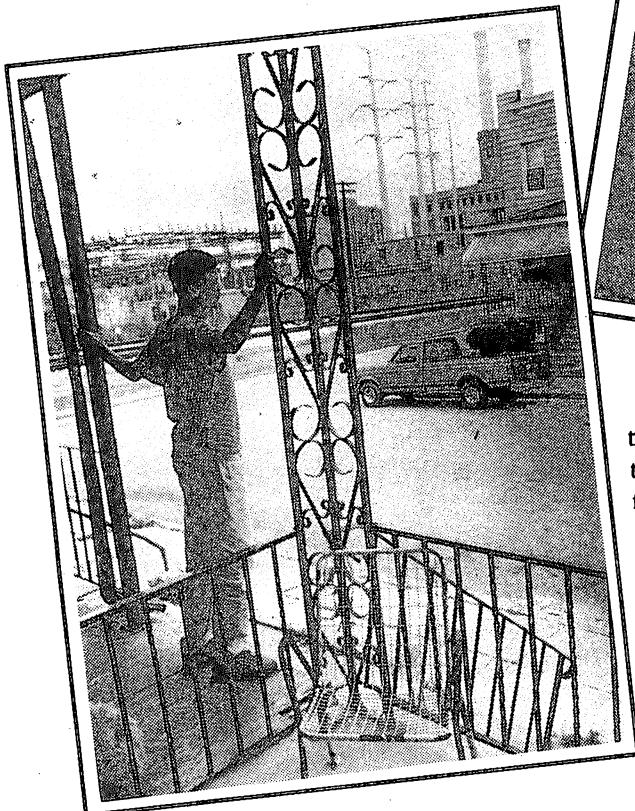
What Works Report #2

Local Solutions to Toxic Pollution



Published by The Environmental Exchange

Released in September 1993, this 150-page volume presents 38 full-length profiles of local citizens, groups, businesses or government agencies working on toxic issues, with photos and description of the projects. In each report, informative sidebars highlight opportunities for citizen involvement.



Sections on environmental education present approaches to teaching about these issues, including model curricula for elementary, high school and university students.

Solutions to toxic pollution range from a company's closed-loop production system in Attleboro, Massachusetts, to a citizen-initiated ordinance requiring toxic-free neighborhoods in San Diego, California.

Also available — What Works Reports #1: Air Pollution Solutions [see *GroundWork #2*].

Each volume \$17 + \$2 postage (or \$3.50 UPS), from Public Interest Publications, POB 229, Arlington VA 22210, 800-537-9359.

photos by Burt Lauderdale, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (right), and S.C. Delaney (left)

Rebuilding Community in America

housing for ecological living, personal empowerment, and the new extended family



by Ken Norwood & Kathleen Smith

Our culture's current environmental, economic & social problems are all yelling at us that we need to move toward more community oriented forms of housing. *Rebuilding Community in America* shows how to deal with these problems through new ecologically sustainable community design possibilities. It shows ways to form intergenerational, extended family village clusters where cooperative human enterprises can foster social stability, economic viabil-

ity, and environmental health.

The book is filled with conceptual drawings, stories, photographs, poems, quotations, and even recipes on issues such as design, layout, group dynamics, energy use, privacy, and food. It covers rural, urban, and suburban settings, discussing prototype models as well as established shared living communities.

"Ken Norwood's pioneering work is helping to lead us toward new patterns — in innovative home design, more coopera-

tive relationships, energy and materials-conserving lifestyles, and stronger mutual support... A powerfully appealing vision of workable solutions." — Ernest Callenbach, author of *Ecotopia*.

Published by the Shared Living Resource Center, 2375 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704. \$22.50 including tax and postage. Shipping after April 1, 1994. The SLRC also offers workshops, consultation, and design services for groups forming communities. Call (510) 548-6608.

Women of Color Resource Center

The Women of Color Resource Center announces a new speakers bureau, Womantalk. Speakers are available around a wide range of topics, including:

- Immigrant Women's Rights
- Environmental Justice
- Multiculturalism & Diversity
- Lesbian Activism
- Reproductive Rights
- Youth Leadership & Development
- Latinas & Health Issues
- Asian Women Workers Community Organizing
- Media Images of Women of Color
- Black Feminism

For more information, contact Women of Color Resource Center, 2288 Fulton Street Suite 103, Berkeley CA 94704, 510-848-9272.

Read About... DO... War Tax Resistance

Are you thinking about or already doing war tax resistance? Either way, subscribe to *Network News* for up-to-the-minute news, resources, technical information and contacts. Quick and easy 8-page format. Six issues / year. \$10.00

Contact:
National War Tax Resistance
Coordinating Committee
PO Box 774, Monroe ME 04951
(1800)269-7464



Spirituality & Social Change

The Fifth Sacred Thing is activist and pagan author Starhawk's first novel, set in 21st-century California.

The best and worst of our possible futures have evolved as two societies. One exists without poverty, hunger, or hatred.

Its rich culture honors a diverse mix of races, religions and heritages, and the Four Sacred Things that sustain life — earth, air, fire and water — are valued unconditionally.

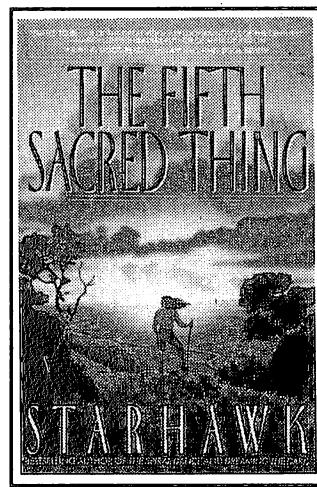
The other society is a nightmare world in which an authoritarian regime polices an apartheid state, access to food and water is restricted to those who obey the corrupt official religion, women are the property of their husbands or the state, and children are bred for prostitution and war.

These societies are poised to clash,

and the outcome rests on the wisdom and courage of one clan caught in the conflict.

This book embodies many of the alternative values and practices of contemporary pagan, peace, ecological, feminist and direct action communities.

"Slated to be one of the great visionary utopian novels of the century." Marion Zimmer Bradley, author of Mists of Avalon.



Renewing the Vision: Daily Readings for Peacemakers, is a collection of meditative poems, each taking as its springboard a passage from Jewish or Christian sacred texts. Author Sue Spencer is also founder of Toys for Peace, a group that encourages the creation and marketing of toys with a

peace angle. *Renewing the Vision* is available from Westminster/John Knox Press, Louisville.

Call for Art for Desert Peace Park Near Test Site

A Peace Park at Cactus Springs, Nevada will be dedicated at the April 1-3, 1994 gathering around Nevada Test Site (see page 27). Contributors to the Park can bring or send masks, peace poles, sculptures or whatever else expresses your

vision of a world without nuclear weapons and radioactive contamination. People can also construct artwork on the site using recycled and found materials.

For more info, contact the Princesses of Plutonium, 415-868-2962.

ANYTHING THAT MOVES

▲ beyond the myths of bisexuality ▼

A Magazine for the bisexual community

"**ATM** represents the multicultural, inclusive, feminist aspects of the bisexual movement. And they have a great cartoonist."

♦ *GroundWork Magazine*

To Subscribe send \$25.00 → \$35.00 foreign to: **Bay Area Bisexual Network**
2404 California Street #24 San Francisco CA 94115
Make check payable to **BABN**

Peacework: 20 Years of Nonviolent Social Change

A new anthology of selected articles from the monthly grassroots peace and social justice newsletter, Peacework, this 288-page, illustrated large-format volume is part historical record, part verbal and visual album of movement work, and part pacifist organizing manual. Covering the range of the activist scene since the end of the 1960's, this book captures the "empowerment journalism" practiced by Peacework.

"Peacework has always been a refreshing and honest voice, dedicated to human values, searching and thoughtful, a ray of hope in a deeply troubled world." — Noam Chomsky

\$20 ppd, from Peacework, AFSC, 2161 Mass. Ave, Cambridge MA 02140, 617-661-6130.

Nonviolent Alternatives

Nonviolent Alternatives announces travel/study programs for 1994 in India and in Lakota Communities. Programs focus on nonviolence and on racism. Call for specifics and dates. *Nonviolent Alternative*, 825 4th Street, Brookings SD 57006, 605-692-8465

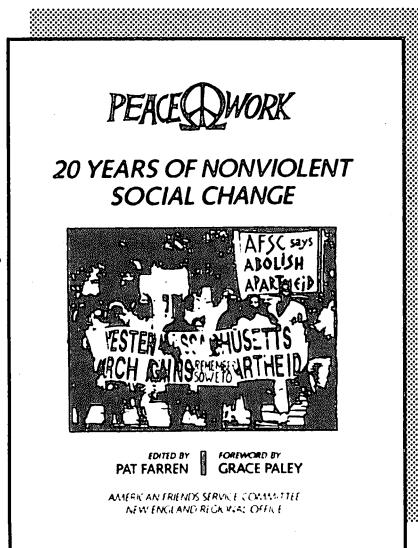
Third World Resources

Third World Resources is an outstanding quarterly review of resources from and about the Third World. Each issue catalogues organizations, books, periodicals, pamphlets and articles, and audio-visuals. Special sections highlight specific areas of the Third World.

Subscriptions within the U.S. are \$35 per year for organizations, \$35 for two years for individuals. Write for foreign rates. Contact TWR, 464 19th St., Oakland CA 94612-2297.

GroundWork covers the grassroots — with your support

GroundWork depends on you to keep us in touch with the grassroots in your area. See contents page for details, or call 415-255-7623.



Facing an environmental problem?

Don't reinvent the wheel!

Fact Sheets from Citizen's Environmental Coalition can save many hours of research time as well as suggesting further resources. Factsheets are available on:

- Hazardous Waste Incineration
- Garbage Incineration
- Medical Waste Disposal
- Superfund Toxic Waste Dumps
- Waste Transportation
- Chemical Plant Emissions
- Mapping Chemical Plumes
- Community Organizing

Fact Sheets are 10-20 pages. \$3 each or all eight for \$20. CEC members get 10% discount. CEC, 33 Central Ave. Albany, NY 12210, 518-462-5527.

Resources for Parents & Teachers

Two new workbook-sized publications are available for parents and teachers concerned with social change. Kathleen McGinnis's *Educating for a Just Society* is aimed at kids in grades 7-12. The 144 page book features activities and student worksheets

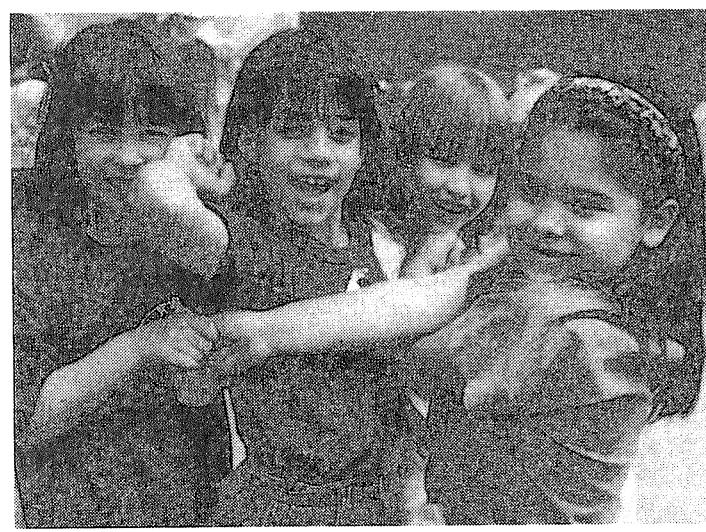
around a variety of topics such as sexism, racism, poverty, and dealing with conflict resolution and violence.

The overall goal of the manual is to help move children from awareness to concern to action. From the Institute

for Peace & Justice, 4144 Lindell Blvd #124, St. Louis MO 63108.

One World, One Earth: Educating Children for Social Responsibility, by Meryl Hammond & Rob Collins, offers a host of concrete ideas to help build cooperative, trusting learning environments, raise difficult and sensitive issues in constructive and caring ways, and develop community support for children in their efforts to understand social issues. Ideas range from ages 3-15.

Chapters include session plans, activities, and additional resources. 133 pages. \$14.95 plus postage (\$2.50 for first copy, 75¢ each additional copy) from New Society Publishers, 4527 Springfield Ave, Philadelphia PA 19143.



Clayoquot Sound

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flooding the office calling and saying "we're coming up there to blockade." People were from all over Canada, but the majority of the people arrested were from Vancouver Island and the city of Vancouver. There were international people — from Germany, Australia, England, the U.S.A. Clayoquot has really become a national and an international issue.

Can you describe the blockade?

There were at least two hundred people on the road every day starting July 1. We were blockading the Kennedy River Bridge — it blocks off the land access to most of the logging in Clayoquot Sound. It was very much in the style of Ghandian resistance. People stood peacefully on the road, and sometimes had to be carried away. Over eight hundred were arrested and over twelve thousand people came to the peace camp or to the blockades.

Have the blockades been effective?

I think they've been incredibly effective. The government is actually cracking down on the industry in some areas, promising stronger laws under the Forestry Act. There was recently a scientific panel set up for Clayoquot Sound, with a lot of amazing people on it. We are also seeing the government negotiate with First Nations people, government to government. That's incredible.

Now Canadians know we have an ancient rainforest and that its disappearing quickly. We've increased awareness all across the country. And hopefully we've saved Clayoquot Sound.

On a more personal level, it's the largest civil disobedience in Canadian history. In the past we've seen civil disobedience, but it's been activists. At the Peace Camp there were elderly people and families with children. A nurse who had never been involved in any environmental issue in her life saw us on the news and drove all the way from Alberta with her children. They stood on the road and got arrested. For the first time we had forestry workers arrested on the blockade.

In British Columbia in the last ten years the membership of the IWA, the union for the timberworkers, has decreased by 60 percent — twenty thousand people. The rate of cutting is going up dramati-

ly and at the same time the number of jobs is going down. It's completely unsustainable. In ten years there will be no jobs, because there will be nothing left. We have to take a long term perspective. We need to look toward retraining, toward secondary industry, and toward selective logging methods that employ more people.

Can you say more about the First Nations' involvement?

The First Nations people of Clayoquot Sound are the Nuu-chah-nuulth Tribal Council — there are five bands within that one Tribal Council. They are sixty percent of the population of Clayoquot Sound and live on only 0.4 percent of the land base. They have an incredibly high unemployment rate and also a very high suicide rate. They have been fighting for Clayoquot Sound since the blockades on Meares Island in 1984. While the government is now saying that they will negotiate with the First Nations people, they are still allowing clearcut logging to go on. Six new roads just been approved to be blasted and a whole bunch of new cut blocks in ancient areas of Clayoquot Sound.

What's the next step for the Friends of Clayoquot Sound?

We've isolated the main consumer countries of Clayoquot Sound and we're going to be going to them and saying "please act responsibly and don't buy from Clayoquot Sound." The New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, and the Los Angeles Times and most of your phone books in the U.S. are printed on paper from pulp from MacMillan Bloedel and probably from ancient rainforest in Clayoquot Sound. We're going to those publishers and newspapers and magazines in Germany, in Japan and in the U.S. asking them to make sure their products are clearcut free. We're asking for a clearcut boycott as a first step. We have other demands — basically we want people to make sure their products are land claim free, are chemical free, are clearcut free and are old growth forest free. We've seen some movement on that and there are a lot of companies who are interested in working with us on developing those type of procurement policies.

We're going to be doing blockades at Clayoquot Sound. We've also seen blockades all around the world for Clayoquot Sound. Eleven people were arrested in Ot-

tawa. Six people were arrested at the Toronto Stock Exchange blockading the trading of MacMillan Bloedel shares. People were arrested at the Canadian Consulate in England. I think we're going to see direct action all over the consumer countries.

For more information contact: Friends of Clayoquot Sound, Box 489, Tofino, British Columbia V0R 2Z0 Canada, (604) 725-4218.



Sea Turtles

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largest consuming nation, it is our ethical responsibility to ensure that Mexican shrimpers do not destroy endangered sea turtles and the marine ecosystem — all for our next shrimp dinner.

Activists around the U.S. called on Mexico to help save the ancient and majestic sea turtles from extinction. They also demanded that the Mexican and American governments protect the environment as promised under the North American Free Trade Agreement. "We cannot let 'free trade' be used as a reason to continue the traffic in products that are known to harm the environment and threaten endangered species. The U.S. government must ban the importation of Mexican shrimp until the killing stops!" declared Chris Gallo at the Los Angeles demonstration.

Witnessing a giant sea turtle drag herself onto a beach to lay her eggs, or gracefully swimming over a coastal reef, is like peering into the primordial past of this living planet Earth. Together we can give the sea turtles a fighting chance!

There's lots you can do :

- Organize a letter writing drive to U.S. officials demanding that they certify Mexico in violation of international endangered species laws as required by the Pelly Amendment:

The Honorable Ronald Brown
Secretary of Commerce
14th & Constitutional Ave NW
Washington D.C. 20240

The Honorable Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior

18th & C Streets NW
Washington D.C. 20240

- Start a stickering and flyering campaign (contact us for materials)
- Call for an activist kit, a sea turtle video, or more information. Contact Mark H. at the Earth Island Institute Sea Turtle Restoration Project (415-788-3666).

Genetic Engineering

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transform current food service policies on campuses, moving away from corporate and animal factory "pharm foods" toward organic, locally and bioregionally-produced foods which are healthy, humanely produced, and eco-friendly. Appetite for Change is calling for every school and college in North America to serve students a BGH-free, organic, vegetarian meal on Earth Day, 1994, or else for students to organize protests, symbolic "food dumping," and boycotts on that day.

To help coordinate the BGH boycott and the Appetite for Change campaign in your local area or school, call the Pure Food Campaign boycott hotline: 1-800-451-7670, or write: Pure Food/Appetite for Change, 1130 17th Street #300, Washington DC 20036.

Idaho Rockies

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campaign has gone "national" (albeit through reports of physical violence perpetrated against protesters and the suspect allegations of tree-spiking). Articles have appeared in the *Washington Post* and *Outside Magazine*, and *NPR* and *ABC* national news carried stories. Simply put, a vocal minority of residents of Idaho refuse to recognize that their state could go the way of northern California, Oregon, and Washington in regard to the degraded condition of their National Forests. It is up to the citizens of the other states to educate their elected Representatives on this critical issue and pursue legislative and administrative relief.

Toward this end, the Missoula-based Alliance for Wild Rockies, through the efforts of Rep. Caroline Maloney (D-New York), has introduced NREPA, The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

If passed, this bill would preserve over

16,000,000 acres of pristine roadless areas in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Eastern Washington and Oregon (including Cove/Mallard). It is the first legislative attempt to take the ecosystem approach to public lands management, the Clinton administration's adoption of the jargon of the environmental movement notwithstanding.

Also wending its way through Congress is HR 1164, the "Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act", assembled by Save America's Forests, an environmental lobbying organization based in Washington, DC. This bill would effectively stop the roading of currently roadless areas.

Clearly, what is at stake here is much less the rights and safety of protesters than our precious wild lands and the survival of species whose territory is quickly vanishing. But the continuing harassment of protesters is indicative of the increasing organization of the "Wise Use" movement and the widespread propaganda churned out by the industry about perceived "threats" by environmentalists. The aim of the harassers, whether they be the U.S. Forest Service, a road-building company or the timber industry, is to render those opposing their destruction less effective.

To remain effective, environmentalists must continue to be creative in their strategy and dedicated and determined in their efforts. And we must make these efforts as broad-based and public as possible, given the belief that the public doesn't support repression of Constitutional rights or assaults on protesters, but does support the preservation of our wild heritage.

To support the Cove/Mallard campaign, write to the Ancient Forest Bus Brigade, P.O. Box 8968, Moscow, ID 83843. To help fight the SLAPP suit, write the Earth First! Legal Offense Fund, P.O. 374, Calpella, CA 95418.

For general information about Earth First!, Write to the Earth First! Journal, P.O. Box 1415, Eugene, OR 97440. (503) 741-9191. (Sorry for so many addresses, but we truly are decentralized).

Ramon is an Earth First! organizer who has moved his Bus Brigade to central Idaho to dig in for the long term on the Cove/Mallard campaign. Karen Pickett is a long time Earth First! organizer based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Water Struggles in Mexico

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"We do not pretend to go against the wishes of the community. But we doubt that this supposed majority is in fact real, since it was based upon suspect information. We feel that the village has not been adequately informed about the capacity of our water table by an institution independent of government interests... We do not feel that it has been adequately proven that if we give our water to the housing project, there will be enough water left to ensure the well-being of the next seven generations of our community."

In their declaration, the Mazahua Defense Council also denounced the physical threats that several of its members have received. "We take this opportunity to solicit the help of both national and international institutions, in order ensure that we can participate freely and democratically in the process of determining the future of our community."

The Mazahua Defense Council is undertaking legal action in order to uncover all of the agreements that have been made behind closed doors regarding the village's water. Any letters of support or contributions to their struggle will be appreciated.

Letters of support can be written to: Lic. Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos, Palacio de Gobierno, CP 06080, México D.F. Send a copy to: Lic. Emilio Chuayffet, Gobernador Constitucional, Estado de México, Palacio de Gobierno, Toluca, México.

You can write a letter in English, and send it to SAIC. We will be happy to translate it, and forward the translation to Mexico along with your original letter. (Or, if you send a letter in Spanish directly to Mexico, please send us a copy as well.)

Financial contributions can be made out to The Tides Foundation/ Indigenous Fund/ Mazahua Defense Council.

A small but significant victory

Members of the Mazahua Defense Council, while still struggling with the larger water issues, did win some ground on another threat to the well-being of their community. Authorities from the neighboring village of San Miguel were planning to site a septic tank at the head

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Water Struggles in Mexico

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of a small watershed that courses through San Lorenzo. While the gully in question, to some eyes, was "uninhabited, non-productive land," to the community members it is an important part of their commons, where the women go to wash clothes and give water to their animals. There are also two small wells in the gully, which were in danger of being contaminated by seepage from the septic tank.

Activists canvassed door-to-door in the town, and a committee went to the municipal capital, Almoloya de Juarez, and demanded to see the building plans. The plans indicated that in fact the proposed septic tank was meant to service the waste of 250 people, not the 5 or 10 houses that had been claimed. Subsequently, the municipal engineer agreed to visit the proposed site in person in order to establish that it was indeed a watershed.

Defense Council members escorted the engineer onto the proposed site, whereupon the absurdity of a plan that would contaminate a watershed in an area

where water is extremely scarce became patently clear to all. The engineer agreed to relocate the septic tank.

As a longer-term solution, members of the Council are exploring alternative systems for sanitation. Currently, only a few houses have flush toilets, with the majority of the villagers still using the fields. Even though the villagers want more sanitation and progress, they are well aware of the problem of "aguas negras" or "black waters" that are created by water-based sanitation systems. As a farming community, they are equally aware of the value of compost. There has been a great deal of interest and receptivity to a pilot project of composting latrines proposed by the Defense Council. The Council has written a proposal to the State asking for construction materials to build 10 composting latrines in the village. If all goes well, plans are to follow up the pilot project with a full-scale project that will provide materials to build the composting latrines to any villager who wants them.

Industrial corridor through Indigenous land?

Looming on the horizon is a large-scale project to convert the bordering "Valle del Yukón", or Valley of the Yukon, into an industrial corridor. This project would seriously affect all of the neighboring Indigenous communities, as well as contaminate what is still a relatively unspoiled area. The Mazahua Defense Council hopes that by beginning to organize the local communities in the area, it can help build the groundwork for this forthcoming struggle to preserve the ecology of the wider region. It looks like it will be an uphill battle. The severe poverty of the region, as well as the decades of corruption by local authorities which have left the villagers feeling intimidated and powerless, will be difficult forces to overcome. But the members of the Defense Council take heart in remembering the struggles waged by their grandparents in the Mexican Revolution in order to win the "ejidos" or communal lands for their Indigenous communities. These lands are now seriously endangered, but as the villagers say, "No hay peor lucha que la que no se da" ("There is no worse struggle than the one that is not undertaken").

For more information, contact SAIIC — see page 40.

Revolutionary Process

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all of the members can fill any of the leadership roles cannot easily be dominated, internally or externally.

An End to Domination

The last and most visible step towards revolutionary change in group process is the manner in which members of the group interact with each other. Dominating attitudes and controlling behavior would not be tolerated. People would show respect and expect to be shown respect. Everyone would be doing their personal best to help the group reach decisions which are in the best interest of the group. There would be no posturing and taking sides. Conflicts would be seen as an opportunity for growth, expanding people's thinking, sharing new information, and developing new solutions which include everyone's perspectives. The group would create an environment where everyone was encouraged to participate, conflict was freely expressed, and resolutions were in the best interest of everyone involved.

Indubitably this would be revolutionary.

"A People of Color Publication"

D-Colonize

D-Colonize: A People of Color Publication, is a new grassroots magazine aimed at providing a linkage for the exchange of ideas, analyses, expression, services and projects.

D-Colonize is a reader-driven publication. The publication hopes to attract socially-conscious people to become an active part of the network.

The initial issue carries stories on the Peoples International Tribunal in Hawai'i, Nicaraguan Health Care, the "new Black cultural elite," poetry and more.

Contact *D-Colonize*, Box 423198, San Francisco CA 94142-3198.



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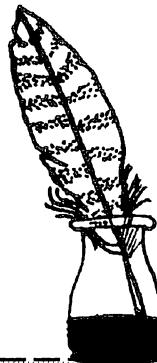
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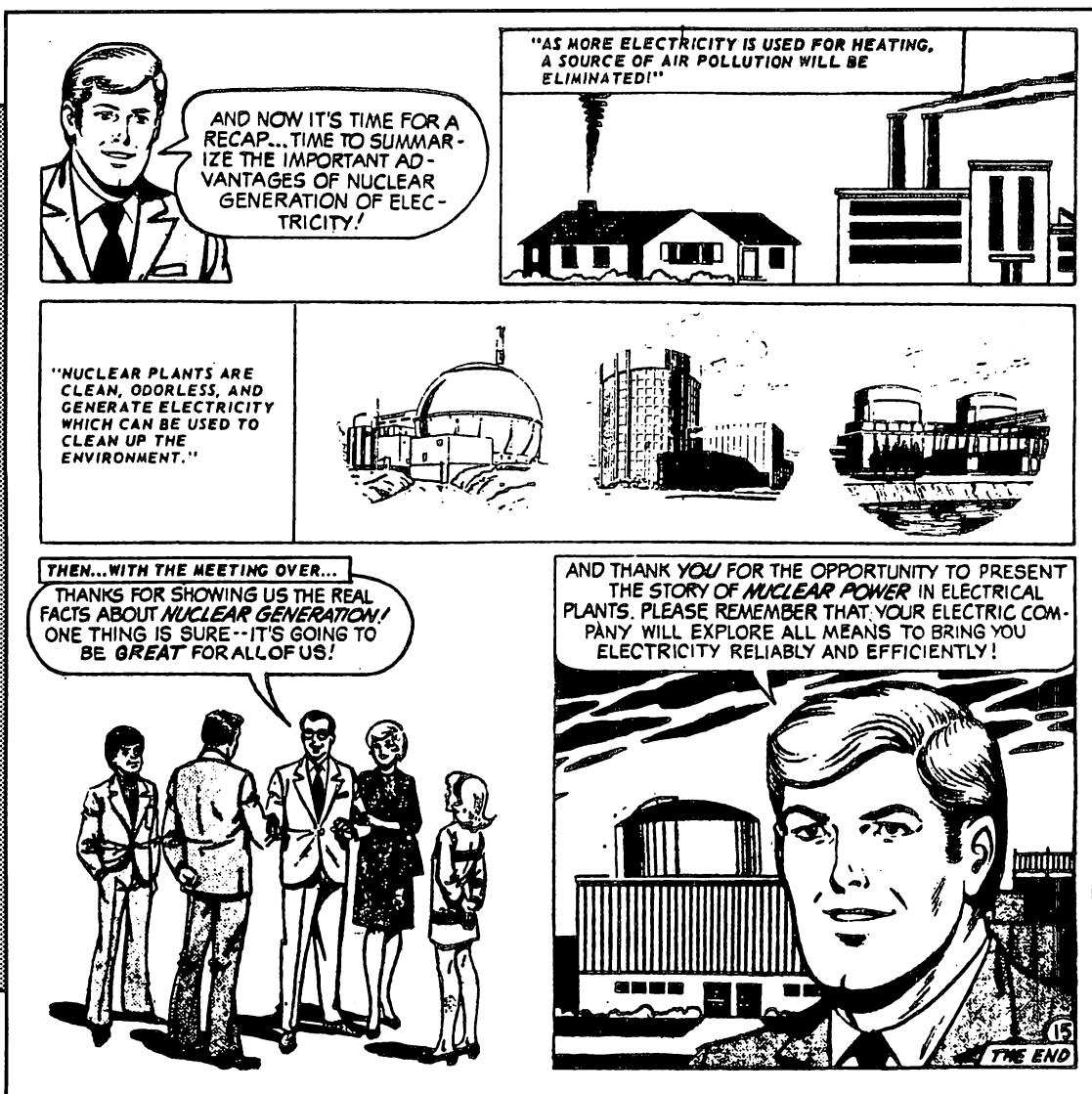
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